

US and Iran in secret deal over hostages

The first details emerged yesterday of a remarkable secret package deal between America and Iran to secure the release of US hostages and restore relations between the two countries — including a series of secret negotiations between the Americans and Iranian officials in Tehran and discussions between the US and Kuwait about the possible reduction of sentences for 17 men imprisoned for bombing the French and American embassies in the country.

The Americans are reported by Arab diplomats to have sent plane-loads of weapons and military spare parts to Iran in return for a promise that Iran would suspend any involvement in international bombings and assassinations, an agreement concluded after a secret visit to Iran by a US delegation said to include Mr Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's former National Security Adviser.

And last night, in a sensational speech on the seventh anniversary of the seizure of the American Embassy in Tehran, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament claimed that Mr McFarlane had travelled to Iran as an airline employee on a false Irish passport to negotiate with the

Iranian régime, carrying with him a Bible signed by President Reagan, a box of cakes for Iranian officials and a list of conditions to improve relations between the two countries.

Secret deals 11
Leading article 17

From Robert Fisk, Moscow
Iranian régime, carrying with him a Bible signed by President Reagan, a box of cakes for Iranian officials and a list of conditions to improve relations between the two countries.

Mr McFarlane: Undercover trip to Tehran
said that Mr McFarlane and four other Americans who travelled with him, had arrived on board a plane loaded with American weapons and had been imprisoned for five days and then deported.

But Mr Rafsanjani's statement also appears to be an attempt to embarrass Syria, and The Times has learnt that an American delegation which travelled to Iran last July —

and at least once since then — was trying to negotiate the release of three US hostages held in Lebanon.

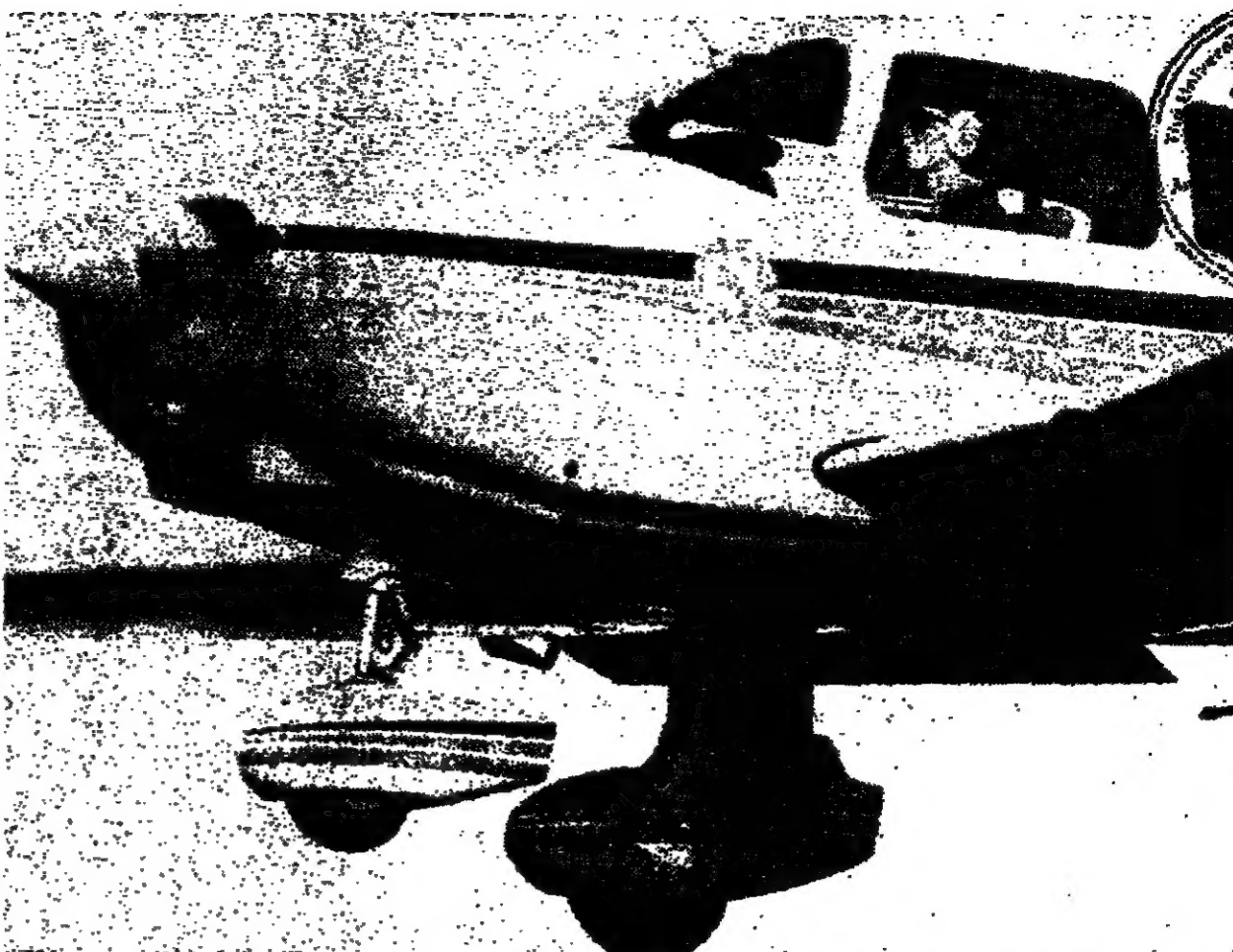
The Times has been told that: A series of secret negotiations has been underway between the US and Iran for some months over the Lebanon hostages in which a senior Syrian diplomat has acted as intermediary between Washington and Tehran.

Aircraft carrying military spare parts and ammunition for the Iranian Army in its war with Iraq have flown to Iran with US permission, reportedly in return for Iranian concessions over the hostages and an end to Iranian involvement in international bombings and assassinations.

One of the earliest shipments of American arms to Iran — which travelled with full American cognizance — came from Israel as part payment for exit visas to be granted to Iranian Jews wishing to travel to Israel.

The Americans have been talking to Kuwaiti officials about a possible commutation of the sentences on 17 men convicted for their part in the bombing of the US and French embassies there in 1983 and whose release is the main demand of the Islamic

Continued on page 26, col 3



Royal head in the clouds: The Duchess of York on her first solo flight yesterday. (Photograph: Julian Herbert)

Baker in direct appeal to heads

By Howard Foster

The dispute between the second largest teachers' union and the Government escalated yesterday when Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, took the unusual step of writing personally to every head teacher in Britain to explain his pay offer.

Mr Baker himself received a letter yesterday, from Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of women Teachers, who restated the reasons for his union's demand for a 50 per cent pay rise, as opposed to the 16.4 per cent proposed by Mr Baker.

Mr Smithies said that the NAS/UTW would be willing to ballot its members on any settlement agreed at this weekend's meeting in Nottingham between unions and employers.

His letter was coupled with a warning that widespread disruption could follow if Mr Baker follows his stated aim of imposing the settlement on the teachers by law if no agreement is reached.

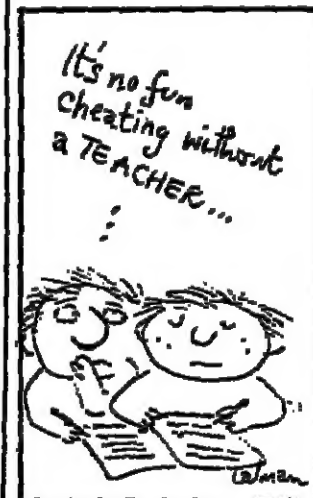
He said: "We shall obviously comply with the law. We are not a group of anarchists but government should make carefully considered decisions. If Mr Baker's solution is pursued, the prospects of a peaceful and constructive atmosphere are low."

Yesterday the union claimed that more than 40,000 of its 127,000 membership had taken part in half-day strikes which affected 630,000 pupils.

Yesterday brought more injunctions from counties including Devon, Cornwall and West Sussex, stopping teachers from striking without a ballot. The union did not oppose the injunctions, on the ground of cost.

The union's disruptive action yesterday was described as "utterly disgraceful" by the Prime Minister.

She said in Parliament that it showed no regard whatsoever for the children in the care of teachers.



BBC reply today on bias claim

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

The BBC will today issue a sharply-worded reply to complaints by Mr Norman Tebbit, chairman of the Conservative Party, about its coverage of the United States bombing raid on Libya last April.

Yesterday relations between the corporation and the BBC hierarchy continued to deteriorate over the affair and Mr James Callaghan, the former Labour Prime Minister, joined Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, in attacking the Prime Minister and her party chairman.

Tory chiefs are angry that the BBC, in their view, is attempting to "move the

Parliament 4
Letters 17

goalposts" in its response to Mr Tebbit's dossier of criticism. They see the crucial questions as those of professional competence and managerial reaction to programme makers who fall below the required standards.

That is why they were particularly annoyed that Mr Alexander Minto, the BBC Director-General, responded almost instantly to their complaints saying that he saw no need for any internal investigation.

Senior Conservatives believe that the BBC has, in its broadcasts since, attempted to imply that Mr Tebbit's complaints were of political bias against the Conservative Party, highlighting an opinion

Continued on page 26, col 5

Russians agree to terrorism talks with UK

From Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent, Vienna

The Soviet Union yesterday accepted a British initiative for talks on joint efforts to combat terrorism. British and Soviet experts are expected to have their first meeting before the end of the year, probably in London.

Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, welcomed the British suggestion yesterday when he met Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in Vienna.

The joint effort is seen by Britain as offering a valuable opportunity to distance the Soviet Union from countries suspected of involvement in state-financed terrorism, such as Syria.

But Sir Geoffrey warned that full co-operation between East and West will not be achieved until the Soviet Union improves its human rights record. His speech on the opening day of the European Conference on Security and Co-operation linked peace to individual freedom.

"We salute those, like Andrei Sakharov, who keep alive the flame of the human spirit," he said.

"We remember too those whose names are not well known but whose lot is one of daily harassment, labour camp, exile or prison. While these things are so it will remain impossible to establish full confidence between our states."

The conference is the third follow-up to the Helsinki process begun in 1975, in which

every European state except Albania made commitments on minimum human rights standards and other issues.

The speech stopped short of naming the Soviet Union as the principal violator of the human rights provisions in the Helsinki Final Act.

As Britain currently holds the presidency of the EEC, the speech, which amounted to an

Shevardnadze meeting 7

EEC effort to encourage signs of greater Soviet readiness for change, required approval from all 11 other nations, some of whom were much less willing to name names.

Soviet officials have continued to show signs of sensitivity while attempting to take the offensive on some human rights aspects. Mr Vladimir Lomeiko, a senior Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, said all provisions of the Helsinki Final Act had been made part of the Soviet constitution.

Another Soviet spokesman said processing of applications to leave the country had been speeded up.

Mr Shevardnadze was not in the conference chamber during Sir Geoffrey's speech. Western diplomats said this should not be interpreted as a boycott, because the Soviet Foreign Minister had spent the day meeting Warsaw Pact colleagues in preparation for his bilateral meeting today with Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State.

The flying Duchess goes solo

By David Cross

The Duchess of York yesterday took to the air for the first time on her own, just four weeks after starting to learn to fly.

Watched by her instructor, Mr Colin Beckwith, and a battery of press and cameramen, the 27-year-old Duchess, wearing a bright green jumpsuit, camouflage-style trousers and with her hair in a pony-tail, flew solo in a 15-minute circuit over the Oxford countryside, at the controls of a Piper Warrior four-seater aircraft. The weather was perfect with ideal visibility and not a cloud in the sky.

The Duchess, who had flown to RAF Benson, the headquarters of the Queen's Flight, in a helicopter, warmed up with three circuits of the airfield, accompanied by Mr Beckwith, who is principal instructor at Oxford Air Training School.

Then she sat alone in the cockpit revving up the single-engine plane and waiting for air traffic controllers to tell her that she was clear for take-off. Within seconds she was airborne and up to about 2,000 feet. She completed just one circuit before landing perfectly.

Mr Beckwith shook her warmly by the hand and said: "Well done, I told you you could do it."

Later she telephoned the news of her first solo flight to the Duke of York, who is a Navy helicopter pilot, currently on a naval officer's course at the Royal Naval Air Station at Yeovilton in Somerset.

Tomorrow

Nott's landings



Sir John Nott argues that we should remember the Suez failure, not the Falklands success, when planning the future defence of Britain.

Portfolio

● The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize of £4,000 was won yesterday by Mr J.D. Rothwell of south-west London. Details, page 3.
● Portfolio list, page 25; how to play, information service, page 20.

TIMES PROPERTY

2,658 houses for sale

There are ten pages of property advertisements today with 2,658 houses up for sale. Pages 27-36

TIMES BUSINESS

Maxwell stake

Mr Robert Maxwell has increased his stake in McCormack, the printer and publisher, to 17.2 per cent after buying at prices above those on the stock market. Page 21

£44.3m sales

Albert Fisher Group is paying £44.3 million for companies in Britain and the US. This will boost its size by 37.5 per cent. Page 21

TIMES SPORT

Tight finish

White Crusader, the British challenger in the America's Cup yacht races, beat Canada II by less than a third of a second. Page 44

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| Home News | 2-6 | Law Report | 39 |
| Overseas | 7-12 | Letters | 17 |
| Arts | 13-15 | Obituary | 18 |
| Births/Deaths | 16-17 | Parliament | 19 |
| Marriages | 18-19 | Property | 28-29 |
| Business | 20-21 | Schools | 39-42 |
| Short | 22 | Short | 39-42 |
| Crosswords | 14-28 | Theatre etc | 12 |
| Diary | 16 | TV & Radio | 43 |
| Events | 26 | Universities | 18 |
| Features | 14-16 | Weather | 20 |

Le Grange goes in Pretoria reshuffle

From Michael Horsey, Johannesburg

Mr Louis Le Grange, South Africa's powerful Minister of Law and Order, was removed yesterday in a Cabinet reshuffle announced by President Botha. Mr Louis Nel, the Deputy Minister of Information, who is in charge of government propaganda, was also dismissed.

Mr Le Grange, who is responsible for the police, is to move to the less onerous post of Speaker of the House of Assembly, the white chamber of Parliament. For most of the past year he has been undergoing chemotherapy treatment for cancer.

Although he is now said to be free of the disease, he had expressed a wish to move to a less high profile job. He is to be replaced by the Deputy Minister of Defence and Law and Order, Mr Adrian Vlok. There is unlikely to be any change in the Government's tough policy on security.

Mr Le Grange, aged 58, was fiercely loyal to the police force, and widely accused of failing to control abuse of police power. Recently, however, he caused surprise by blaming unrest on the squalid living conditions in black townships instead of espousing the usual government line about communist agitators.

Mr Nel has been under heavy fire lately for the expenditure of Rands 4.3 million (£1.4 million) of taxpayers' money on commissioning and

broadcasting a pop song, "Together we'll build a brighter future", designed to promote racial harmony.

His replacement is an interesting choice. Mr Stoffel Venter, a member of a group of about 50 backbench MPs of the ruling National Party known as the "New Nats" who are said to favour a much faster pace of political reform.

For the rest, the reshuffle is largely a case of musical chairs, occasioned in part by the retirement of some older ministers.

Key ministers, such as General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister; Mr P.W. Botha, the Foreign Minister; Mr Chris Heunis, the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning; and Mr F.W. de Klerk, the Minister of National Education; stay where they are.

Speculation that the South African Ambassador in London, Mr Dennis Worrall, might be brought back home, possibly to be given Mr Nel's information portfolio, proved unfounded.

Reserves down £474m

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves slumped by \$668 million (£474 million) last month — the biggest fall in four years — as the Bank of England dropped up the pound.

The fall in the reserves occurred as the pound dropped against the mark and other currencies.

This fall does not reflect the full extent of official support. The Bank of England asked the West German Bundesbank to help and will repay the cost of that support in the next few months.

The pound gained 35 points to \$1.4145 yesterday, but dipped to DM2.9100. Biggest fall, page 21

End of Russian line nowhere in sight

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

As the Soviet Union prepares for Friday's 69th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, there is mounting frustration that Mr Gorbachev's economic reforms have failed to make any impression on one of the greatest bugbears of Soviet life — queuing.

By rationing the amount of vodka available, queues outside the dismal-looking state liquor stores have recently grown longer, with pensioners offering (for a price) to keep the places of those at work for up to four or five hours.

other end," a Moscow housewife said. "Unfortunately it has become a way of life."

Statistics show that the nation wastes billions of manhours every year standing in queues. The figures also revealed that a remarkable 18 per cent of all stress-induced strokes originated in queues.

His latest edition of *Liternaya Gazeta*, the official paper of the Writers' Union and one of Moscow's most respected publications, which eight years ago carried a sensational article on the evils of queuing, carries a bitter series of signed letters bemoaning the problem.

"Years have passed," wrote one Muscovite in reference to the 1978 article, "and what has happened? The queues have got longer and meaner, and nowadays 10 people is not considered a queue... people used to queue for something good, now they queue for anything."

Mr A. Aizikov, a war veteran, complained that in recent years queues had been "legalised" by dint of the notices which are now hung in "shops, cinemas, banyas (bathhouses), dry cleaners — everywhere — stating who has the right to be served at the head of the queue."

Many readers complained that sales assistants treated queues by waiting until five or 10 people had gathered before "designing" to serve them or by "correcting" the mistakes of the architect and opening only one door of the shop."

Among the suggestions put forward for improving matters were the introduction of a two-shift day, the start of a system of self-service "as they have everywhere else in the world" and the creation of western-type supermarkets selling all types of goods so that customers would not have to trek from shop to shop to buy bread, milk, vegetables and so on.

Networks in deal on US poll

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Polling in the US mid-term elections got off to a slow start yesterday, as poor weather and voter apathy threatened to produce one of the lowest turnouts in years. But the Senate race looked so close that for the first time in years most Americans went to bed without knowing which party had won overall control.

This neck-and-neck situation was also exaggerated by the lack of early computer projections. For the first time in years, the television networks agreed not to broadcast "exit polls" — the sampling of voter reaction as people come out of the polling booths.

There has been a considerable criticism of exit polls as they tend to distort the results. With a three-hour time difference between the East and West coasts, the polls in California are still open long after they close in the East. If a party hears it is doing poorly in the East, it can mobilize special resources to bring out the last-minute vote in California and thus reduce the balance.

President Reagan awaited the result anxiously, as he concluded his hectic two-week campaign covering 13 states and 25,000 miles to boost the Republicans' chances. He has warned that a Democratic-controlled Senate would weaken his negotiating hand in arms control talks and put a brake on the economic recovery.

Mr Reagan, who is 75, appeared to relish his last major political campaign, throwing himself energetically into the fray, but the strain was beginning to tell by the end.

Yard faces inquiry after TV claims

By Stewart Tansley, Crime Reporter

A provincial police team was called into Scotland Yard yesterday to investigate serious allegations involving a London gangster and his relationship with Yard detectives.

The inquiry, headed by the chief constable of South Yorkshire, follows claims in a *World in Action* television programme that investigations into the criminal, who was also a top informant, were frustrated.

Mr Gerald Wiltshire, a former Yard detective, superintendent, said another officer talked of a plan to kill him and junior officers were threatened with losing their careers.

As the investigation was announced two Labour MPs yesterday followed up the programme by naming and accusing a senior Yard detective of corruption using Parliamentary privilege to quote from an internal Yard inquiry.

The motion was tabled by Mr Clive Soley, MP for Hammersmith and a spokesman on Home Affairs, and Mr Christopher Smith, MP for Islington South, following the programme on Monday which examined the relationship between Roy Garner and Scotland Yard.

The programme looked at the failure of an investigation called Operation Albany aimed at convicting Garner, led by officers who were not told the criminal was an informant. While they were investigating him he received up to £250,000 in rewards.

Networks in deal on US poll

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NEWS SUMMARY

Man's artificial heart replaced

Surgeons at the Papworth Hospital, near Cambridge, replaced the artificial heart in a male patient with a donor's heart in a four-and-a-half hour operation yesterday.

The man, aged 40, who has yet to be named, was given a Jarvik 7 plastic and metal device by surgeons on Sunday when he was about to die of heart failure.

A spokesman for the UK Transplant Centre, Bristol, said that the Papworth patient was one of 400 people urgently in need of a new heart.

Bishop 40 Butlin staff go

A hot air balloon flight by the Bishop of Hereford, the Right Rev John Eastaugh, marking the start of a diocese tour, ended embarrassingly yesterday when he was blown into the neighbouring diocese of Worcester.

After taking off from Ludlow School, the balloon eventually came down on a farm near Abberley.

Butlin is to dismiss 40 of the 112 permanent staff at Somerset world, its holiday camp in Minehead, Somerset.

The announcement comes a week after the firm said it was going to shut down its holiday camp in Barry, South Wales, as part of a countrywide cost-cutting operation.

Jury clemency plea

A jury's appeal to a judge yesterday saved the son of Mike Reid, the comedian, from going to jail for shooting dead his best friend. The jurors, sitting at Chelmsford Crown Court, found Mark Reid, aged 20, guilty of the manslaughter of Ian Rogers, aged 17, but made a special plea for clemency which was accepted by Mr Justice Drake.

Instead, Reid was put on two years' probation. The court had been told Ian Rogers was killed by a shotgun from a range of 10 feet as the pair skydived.

Poll rules tightened

The Civil and Public Services Association has tightened its rules to prevent irregularities in the return of the election for a general secretary.

The election, which begins on Monday week, was ordered after the disclosure that union members were denied voting rights in the contest won by Mr John Macreadie (right), a supporter of Militant Tendency.

Newspaper 'blunder'

More than 3,000 readers of *The Daily Telegraph* yesterday thought they had won a Seychelles holiday in the newspaper's Passport Control competition.

But because of a misprint, all they will get is a few pence. The management admitted what it said was a "huge blunder". As a gesture of regret, the newspaper is to donate £10,000 to the Save the Children Fund.

Suicide of fraud case bank chief

A bank manager shot himself after inquiries began into an alleged £3 million fraud involving one of his customers and a government department, Lincoln Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr John Taylor, manager of the Lincoln branch of Lloyds Bank, committed suicide in October 1982 when investigations began into the Lincoln firm of Lumiere Leisure.

Mr David Farrar, QC, for the prosecution, has claimed that directors of the firm invented bogus sales of fold-away squash courts and sports centres to France, Belgium and Australia, which were used to secure massive loans from Courts and Lloyds Bank.

The loans were insured under an agreement with the Export Credit Guarantee Department, which had to pay out £3.3 million when the Lumiere group of companies finally collapsed in the summer of 1982. He said that the firm repaid bogus loans by taking out even larger loans for contracts which never existed.

Two former directors of Lumiere are accused of operating the fraud under the supervision of the firm's managing director, Mr Robert Stapleton, now in Spain.

Mr Stapleton's wife Julia Stapleton, aged 40, of the Spindles, Boothby Graffio, near Lincoln, is accused of 10 counts of false accounting and 10 alternative charges of obtaining overdrafts by deception. Robert Coles, aged 39, the company's former financial director, of Hayton, near East Retford, Nottinghamshire, faces four charges of false accounting.

The trial continues today.

Tunnel job worth '100,000 man-years'

By Rodney Cowton
Transport Correspondent

The construction of the Channel tunnel and associated activities will create about 100,000 man-years of employment in Britain, Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday in a vigorous defence of the project.

Addressing a conference in London organized by the European League for Economic Co-operation, Mr Moore said he had been dismayed by the extent of the suspicion and inertia shown towards the scheme. He felt that the adverse factors in the

project would be vastly offset by the advantages.

As a result of the proceedings of the House of Commons select committee, which has been hearing objections to the project, a number of important safeguards had been put in place. The stipulation that the fixed link would be constructed and operated without recourse to government funds or government guarantees would now be written into the Bill which is before Parliament.

Some jobs in the ports and on the ferries would inevitably go, but most would not. The ferries would continue not just on the longer routes but also

on the short sea crossings.

Cross Channel traffic had quadrupled in the past 20 years. The additional choice represented by the tunnel and the spur of competition to existing modes of air and sea travel to improve efficiency and reduce fares would result in more people and goods crossing the Channel.

"The Channel tunnel will be the biggest civil engineering project of its kind ever undertaken in Europe. Half of it will be British, and that will be a tremendous demonstration that we still have the skill and imagination for great ventures."

"The project will be under-

taken entirely by the private sector, thus demonstrating that the free enterprise economy can still respond to great opportunities without the prop of government underwriting," he said.

The construction of the tunnel system and the associated railway works and rolling stock would create in Britain some 100,000 man-years of employment, if account was taken of the knock-on effect. There would be a similar boost for the construction industry in France, he said.

● The Council for the Protection of Rural England yesterday accused the Govern-

ment of breaking its undertaking to allow objectors to the Channel tunnel to present their case to the select committee considering the Bill.

The complaint came in a letter to Mr Alex Fletcher, MP, the committee chairman, from Mr Robin Grove White, the CPRE director. He said that as a result of an unreasonable timetable for the committee's hearings, it had effectively ruled against a number of individuals putting their case in person to the committee in spite of an assurance given in the House last December that they would be able to do so.

New push to check 'lenient' sentences

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government is expected to resurrect its controversial proposal giving the Attorney General a right to refer apparently over-lenient sentences to the Court of Appeal, as a way of resolving a serious split between ministers and judges.

It is now almost certain to drop its original proposal for the Lord Chief Justice's sentencing guidelines to be modified and published on a statutory basis by the Judicial Studies Board.

That proposal has been strongly opposed by senior judges and by Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, although it was favoured by Home Office ministers.

But the Government is determined to be seen to be tackling the problem of sentences that appear too lenient.

The proposal for a right of referral to the Court of Appeal for an opinion — which would have no power to change the sentence — was contained in the Prosecution of Offences Bill last year and thrown out after opposition in the Lords.

It is now emerging as the option likely to counter least opposition from the ministers involved, although it may still run into opposition in the Lords.

Ministers hope there is still time for the proposal to be contained in the Criminal Justice Bill expected late next week.

The option was one of the three canvassed by the Government in its criminal justice White Paper earlier this year. The second and stronger option was for a right of referral by the Attorney General, with the Court of Appeal having power to increase sentences.

However, the Government fears that this would lay the prosecution open to a charge of involvement in sentencing. The same applies to the option favoured by the Lord Chief Justice, for a prosecution right of appeal over apparently lenient sentences.

'New rules will reduce detections'

The fall in detection rates for juvenile crime is due to the rule requiring adults to be present during police interviews, a police superintendent claims in this month's *Criminal Law Review* (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

Det Supt Donald Taylor, co-ordinator of the south-west regional crime squad, also predicts there will be a similar drop in adult detections as a result of new codes of practice on police questioning and the right of suspects to have a solicitor with them when interviewed.

Mr Taylor says that many more offences were admitted by juveniles when questioned by police before 1978, when the new rules were introduced.

Reported crime rose by 47 per cent between 1978 and 1985, but total detections rose by only 34 per cent. That was in spite of adult detections increasing by 49 per cent.

During the Times survey, Australia led 28, Belgium a five per cent, Canada 10, Denmark the 100th, France 10, Germany 10, Italy 10, Japan 10, Korea 10, Luxembourg 10, Netherlands 10, Norway 10, Portugal 10, Spain 10, Sweden 10, Switzerland 10, Taiwan 10, Thailand 10, USA 10, Yugoslavia 10.

MPs divided on issue of privately-run British jails

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

A Commons select committee is divided on the politically explosive question of whether privately-run prisons should be introduced in Britain.

Conservative members of the home affairs committee returned from a fact-finding trip to America last month convinced that such institutions provided an answer to the chronic overcrowding and considerable financial drain of British prisons.

At the last count there was a total prison population of 47,307 in accommodation built for just under 41,000, with each inmate costing an average of £36 a day to keep.

However Labour members who went on the trip are saying privately that the concept of making profit from prisoners is "obscene" and that they could never endorse a report calling for privately-run prisons.

They acknowledge that the American prisons had their good points, but insist that these should merely be taken on board by state-run prisons here.

The Tories insist that the American system is one of "management contract", not "privatisation" but both Tory and Labour MPs admit that there is little scope for compromise.

The committee visited three "correctional institutions" run by the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA).

Sir Edward Gardner, the committee chairman, described the trip as "one of the most revealing I have ever undertaken," while another Tory, Mr John Wheeler, said he was "profoundly impressed".

According to Sir George, the CCA had cut roughly five dollars off the 25 dollars a day it cost state prisons to keep a prisoner, and had done so while improving standards.

The CCA met the capital cost of building the prisons, which took less than nine months to construct and which reverted to state ownership after 20 years.

Faced with the ultimate sanction of losing the contract, the CCA scrupulously observed stringent conditions laid down by the state and its prisons were subject to frequent and unannounced inspections. It provided rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners and an "after-care" service once they were released.

The committee will continue its inquiry in this country by taking evidence from the Home Office and prison authorities.

Arts funding

Theatres facing cash crisis

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) has no financial reserves to meet a crisis and its future will remain uncertain unless the Government restores the real value of its subsidy next year, Mr Geoffrey Cass, its chairman, said yesterday.

At the same time, the Oxford Playhouse has given a warning that it could close next July because the university can no longer afford to bail out the theatre in its latest cash crisis.

Presenting the RSC 1985-86 annual report yesterday, Mr Cass said the transfer of four successful productions to the West End had resulted in a net surplus of little more than £5,000.

That margin was perilously small. "Contingency planning is difficult when we are al-

ready trying to absorb a significant reduction in the real value of a carefully established level of subsidy."

Mr Cass said the effect of restricted increases in the past two years had been to reduce the real value of the subsidy to well below a minimum required level. "If the real value of that base is not restored in 1987-88, we must warn governors that the prospects for the future will once again be distressingly difficult."

The company staged a record number of 36 productions, including 14 new plays and adaptations, during the year in Stratford-upon-Avon, London and on tour.

The Oxford University Hebdomadal Council, which is facing a cash crisis of its own because of government cuts,

reached its decision about the Playhouse on Monday.

Mr DW Roberts, deputy registrar, said yesterday that staff were aware of the university's long-standing concern about the theatre's considerable financial difficulties and its inability to operate without substantial subsidies.

A successful appeal in 1982 had bought time to explore new arrangements, on the basis that the university could not commit itself to keeping the Playhouse in business beyond next July.

"The need for substantial economies in all its activities make it more than ever necessary for the university to close its open-ended commitment to make up the Playhouse's deficit year after year," Mr Roberts said.

Anglo-Irish agreement

Concern over tactics widens Unionist split

By Richard Ford

The divisions between Northern Ireland's two Unionist parties deepened yesterday as they organized protests to mark the first anniversary of the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Both the Official and Democratic Unionists are deeply suspicious of each other's tactics and it is becoming increasingly difficult for the hostilities between the two parties to be kept to private meetings.

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionists, yesterday indicated that his MPs may soon be back at Westminster voting in vital

divisions, while Mr Ian Paisley, the DUP leader, says a citizens' army is needed to oppose the deal with Dublin.

The Official Unionists are increasingly alarmed at preparations for such a mobilization, and yesterday Mr Molyneux said he had no reason to believe that his colleagues in the Unionist family were involved as a party in organizing such an army.

There are others within the OUP who believe that their allies in the fight against the agreement are operating behind their backs with other loyalist groups to organize resistance to the deal.

Mr Molyneux denounced

the idea of any citizens' army as being worrying to all right-thinking people.

He said it would be difficult for him to explain to his party that one of the partners had engaged in something without consultation, and said: "We have been through all this before in the 70s."

He added that he had served in an army during the Second World War — a comment not lost on those within Unionism who know that Mr Paisley was not a member of the Armed Forces during that conflict.

If the OUP are concerned at the ideas of their colleagues, the DUP will be equally worried as Mr Molyneux's

indication that Unionist MPs may be back at Westminster voting on certain issues within the near future.

The DUP see this as a weakening of Unionist resolve, but Mr Molyneux said it did not mean they would be reverting to normal Parliamentary practice.

"We have not been totally boycotting Parliament. We in all probability will be engaged in voting, perhaps in the near future. It would have to be something vitally important. We have no intention of going there as lobby fodder, propping up and giving respectability to a government which has betrayed us."

NEWS INTERNATIONAL

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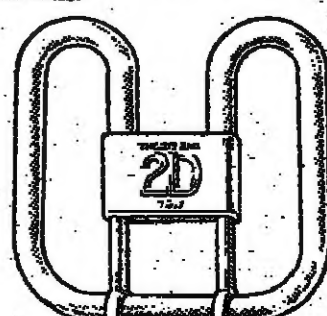
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Trade union restrictions blamed for hospital cost

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Restrictive trade union practices in hospitals are costing millions of pounds and are leading to the deaths of kidney patients, a Conservative MP said yesterday.

Mr Tony Favell, secretary of the Conservative health and social services committee, blamed the health service unions both for preventing contracting out and for inefficiency within the NHS.

"It's quite clear that there's a rigidity of working practices and demarcation within the NHS reminiscent of the shipbuilding industry at its very worst," he said.

The MP has sent evidence to Mr Anthony Newton, Minister for Health, which he said showed that the crisis facing NHS renal units could be solved overnight if dialysis treatment was contracted out to the private sector. Three times as many patients could be treated, and at a saving of £6,000 per patient per year.

NHS hospitals no longer have room for new patients. An estimated 1,200 kidney patients are waiting for treatment. The St Peter's Group of Hospitals in London is providing dialysis for 235 patients, although funded for only 164.

Mr Favell denied there was a shortage of equipment. "It is my firm belief that hospital dialysis machines are not worked to capacity because of inflexible working practices in many health service regions," he said.

In Wales, the private sector had built two new renal units within five months of winning government contracts and had achieved savings of £6,000 a patient through flexible working practices.

Dialysis treatment takes five and a half hours per session. NHS employees work eight-hour shifts, and therefore accommodate just one patient per shift, whereas private renal unit employees work three 11-hour days, accommodating two patients per shift.

In the NHS a technician stands by in case anything goes wrong, whereas in private units nurses are trained to perform technical work.

Mr Favell sent Mr Newton a letter from Dr Derek Thompson, consultant nephrologist at the St Peter's hospitals, describing contracting out to relieve pressure as "very attractive".

Another letter from Mr Smart Twaddell, director of the private but non-profit-making Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, London, said: "We have the capacity, immediately, to deal with a large number of Health Service patients and to offer them a high standard of dialysis treatment."

Mr Favell said he had approached all four London regional health authorities, "but on each occasion the response has been poor and it is apparent to me that my proposals have not been fully considered."



The Camel Corps plodding leaden-footed across the burning artificial sand of Gieves and Hawkes' window display in Savile Row, London, yesterday. They were in a parade previewing the biggest auction yet of toy soldiers, to take place at Phillips, London, on January 14 and 15 (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Dead man had record drug dose

A man who died in police custody was "intoxicated" with one of the highest levels of cocaine ever recorded, an inquest in London was told yesterday.

Dr Patrick Tozeland, a toxicologist, told Westminster coroners' court: "It's the highest level I have seen".

He said that the dose taken by Cephus Anthony Lemard was lethal.

Dr Tozeland said that analysis of the amount of cocaine in Mr Lemard's urine was the highest he had ever seen recorded in world literature.

He said he was unable to tell whether Mr Lemard had used the cocaine in its free basing method, known as "crack".

Mr Lemard, an engineer, of Haskell House, Stonebridge Park estate, Stonebridge, north-west London, was found dead at Kensington police station on October 8, shortly after being arrested.

Police had received complaints that Mr Lemard, armed with a knife, had been terrorizing residents of Markland House, Notting Hill, west London.

Dr Tozeland said that the dead man had inhaled cocaine through his nose and the high level would make him hyperactive and cause hallucinations.

Dr Iain West, a pathologist, said the cocaine caused the death although the mechanism of death was from the inhalation of vomit.

Dr West added that his post-mortem examination showed no signs of Mr Lemard either being violently restrained or involved in a violent struggle.

Professor Bernard Knight, an independent pathologist for the Lemard family, agreed with the conclusions of Dr Iain West as did Dr Geoffrey Greasham who did a third post-mortem examination for the police.

Police Constable Russell Worsley who was called to arrest Mr Lemard said: "The man went berserk and was thrashing about wildly." Five police officers managed to get Mr Lemard to the ground and handcuff him.

PC Worsley had alerted colleagues that they were arriving with a "potentially violent person" but on their arrival Mr Lemard had quietened down. When he was taken to the charge room and laid on the floor it was obvious he was not breathing.

The hearing continues today.

Foot denies Maxwell 'gift'

Mr Michael Foot, the former Labour Party leader, denied in the High Court yesterday that he had received a cheque for £75,000 from Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, over dinner in a Soho restaurant.

He said the allegation in the satirical magazine, *Private Eye*, was "absolute rubbish".

The allegation was one of several in the magazine which alleged that the former Labour MP acted as paymaster to Mr Neil Kinnock in an attempt to buy a peerage, the court was told.

Mr Foot, aged 73, giving evidence on behalf of Mr Maxwell, said it was a "wide generalization" to say contributions to the party were a "short cut" to a peerage.

Mr Maxwell had contributed something more than £30,000 to the fund he and others had launched to pay their legal costs after losing a High Court claim against the Boundaries Commission in 1983.

When the fund was still short of its target he went to see Mr Maxwell who gave him a cheque for £8,534 to wipe the slate clean. Those donations were "absolutely proper", he said.

Their meeting in the Gay Hussar restaurant had nothing to do with the legal fight and no money was handed over. They were discussing whether a new Labour newspaper could be launched in time for the election.

Mr Maxwell, chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers, is seeking libel damages over two articles in the magazine in July last year, which he claims meant that he had bribed or attempted to bribe Mr Kinnock by paying for foreign trips.

The magazine and its former editor, Mr Richard Ingrams, deny libel. They are counter-claiming for libel damages over a *Daily Mirror* article at the same time.

The hearing continues.

Smoker died after giving up

Mrs June Taylor's decision to give up smoking led to her death, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mrs Taylor, aged 31, put out her last cigarette, but just 24 hours later, the withdrawal symptoms of nervous tension and shaking triggered an acute asthmatic attack and she died.

Dr Edmund Tapp, a consultant pathologist, said Mrs Taylor had choked to death.

Mr Howard McCann, the Lancashire county coroner, recorded a verdict that Mrs Taylor, of Larkhill Street, Preston, died of natural causes.

Doctor faces drug charges

A doctor was yesterday sent for trial accused of using the name of a dead patient to obtain drugs dishonestly from chemists.

Dr Gordon Moxon, aged 54, of Castle Cottages, Bickleigh, near Tiverton, Devon, appeared before magistrates at Newton Abbot on three charges of obtaining the painkiller, dextromoramide, by claiming it was for patients.

Nature line

The Prince of Wales is backing residents of Denstone, Staffordshire, in their fight to have a disused railway line, once destined to become a road, adapted as a nature walk.

'Strain' of Tyra case worker

The Lambeth council social worker in charge of the case of Tyra Henry, who was 20 months old when she was bitten and beaten to death by her father, Andrew Neil, in September 1984, may have been too ill to cope with her case adequately, a social services chief admitted yesterday.

Mr Jack Smith, Lambeth's principal officer for social work, told the inquiry into her death that Mrs Avon Palethorpe, the fieldworker directly responsible for the child, was in poor health and was under strain because of her husband's death.

The tribunal has been told that a relief worker had to take over the child's care when Mrs Palethorpe had three months' compassionate leave because of illness after her husband's death.

When Mrs Palethorpe returned she decided with her superior, Miss Ann Daniels, six months before the killing, to stop visiting the child and her mother, Claudette, at their home in Evelyn House, Bonham Road, Brixton.

A health visitor's report that the mother was breaking care conditions by meeting Neil was not followed up by the two.

Mr Smith also said yesterday that Neil, who was facing charges for beating his son, Tyrone, should have been told to stay away from the family.

"But I don't know if it would have made any difference. I don't think it was possible to predict that Andrew Neil was a murderer," he said.

The hearing continues.

Attack on baby 'not recalled'

A man accused of smashing a baby's head against a bedroom wall told a jury yesterday he could not remember the attack.

Michael George, of Berkeley Crescent, Padstow, near Burnley, denies the murder of Emma Louise Flynn, aged 19 months - his girl friend's daughter - who died in hospital two days after the attack.

She had 38 separate bruises and a fractured skull.

But Mr George, aged 19, admits having seen photographs of Emma and said he accepted he was responsible.

"I was a bastard for doing that," he told Preston Crown Court.

The prosecution alleges that Mr George had been drinking heavily and had taken drugs when he went to the child's room in a rage after a dispute with his girl friend, Mrs April Flynn, in May.

He allegedly picked the baby up by the ears, head-butted her several times and then smashed her against the wall while holding her legs.

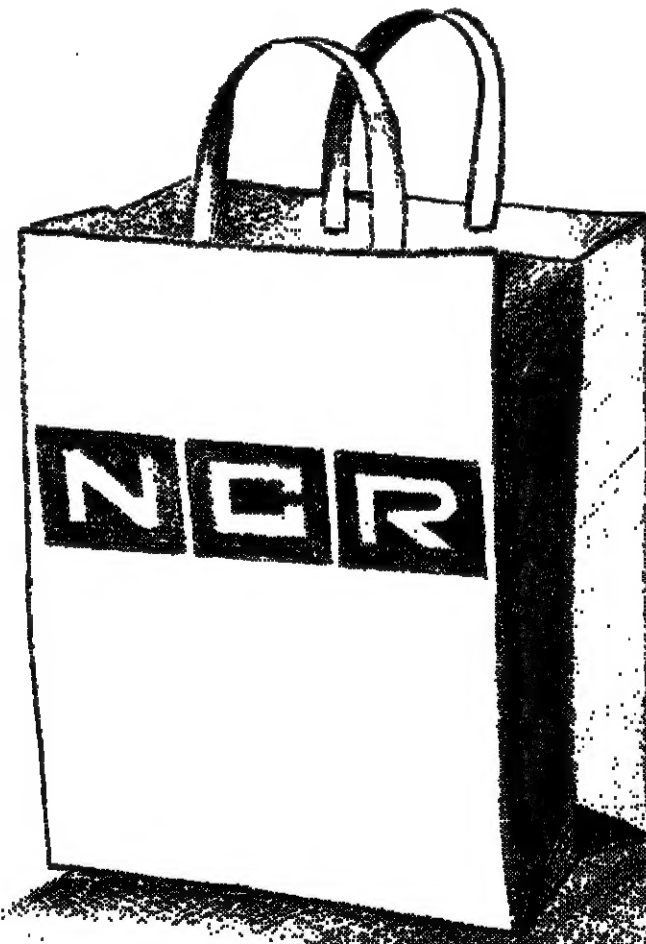
He told the jury that as a child he had been a victim of violence.

He admitted smoking cannabis, taking a tranquillizer and drinking cider, but said he did not recall any argument or going into the child's bedroom.

Dr John Rees, a drugs expert, told the court that the tranquillizer involved could reduce anxiety, depress brain function and cause violent and aggressive behaviour. The drug also caused amnesia which he would expect to be total.

The trial continues.

Where do the major retailers go shopping for complete retail systems?



Peril of summer weekends

By Kenneth Gostling

Accidents in the home reach a peak at weekends in May and July between 4pm and 8pm, according to the annual report of the Department of Trade and Industry's Home Accident Surveillance System.

The main culprits for all non-fatal accidents in the home are stairs and steps, with more than 10,000 last year, closely followed by what the report calls "person (other than patient)", on 7,382.

Toys, such as abandoned roller skates, accounted for 1,183 incidents, pills and tablets for 800, and nails, screws and tacks for 1,500. Dogs caused 787 humans to come to grief without even leaving the house. Cats were much safer, with a score of 165.

Among inanimate objects blamed for accidents needing hospital treatment were wheelbarrows (74 cases), watering cans (six), deckchairs and sunbeds (143), hedge trimmers (210) and mowers (299).

In the bathroom, razors and blades accounted for 388 accidents, bath oils 12, nail varnish 16 and cotton wool 71.

A new method of monitoring hazardous consumer products was announced yesterday by

Accidents at home

NON-FATAL HOME ACCIDENTS IN 1985

Products, articles and features of the home most frequently involved.

| Category | Number of Accidents | Category | Number of Accidents |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Stairs/steps | 10149 | Planks/planks of wood | 1140 |
| Person (other than patient) | 7382 | Hot water | 1127 |
| Doors (to rooms) | 4366 | Cars/parts | 1127 |
| Tins/tin openers | 3000 | Non-domestic knives | 1102 |
| Cupboard/underlay | 2846 | Doors (unspecified) | 1081 |
| Chairs | 2545 | Splinters | 1081 |
| Beds/bunk beds | 2554 | Scooters/couches | 971 |
| Floors | 2277 | Hot drinks | 932 |
| Footwear | 2154 | Terraces/outside yards | 889 |
| Tables/coffee tables | 1916 | Hot plates | 853 |
| Ladders/stair ladders | 1834 | Bars feet/socks | 850 |
| Nails/screws/tacks | 1498 | Knives (unspecified) | 821 |
| Windows | 1481 | Pills/tablets | 821 |
| Glass (unspecified) | 1449 | Bottles (glass and plastic) | 821 |
| Walls (outside) | 1282 | Dogs | 787 |
| Cupboards/cabinets | 1189 | Stools/pouffes | 754 |
| Falls | 1183 | Baths (outside) | 752 |
| Toys | 1147 | Baths and fittings | 718 |
| Domestic knives | | Bones | 718 |
| | | Carving knives/carvers | 715 |

Mr Michael Howard, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The hazardous products database (Hazprod), to be developed jointly with local authority trading standards departments, will act to determine faults in products.

Mr Howard said at the start of a two-day European conference on home safety research and accident prevention in London that the Government had reached an advanced stage in its plan to

introduce a general duty to supply safe consumer goods, which would be the criminal law equivalent of civil liability.

There are about three million accidents requiring medical attention each year in British homes, including more than 5,000 deaths. Home accidents account for 40 per cent of all fatal accidents.

Home Accident Surveillance System, 9th annual report - 1985 data (Consumer Safety Unit, DTI, 10-18 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NN).

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November 4 1986

PARLIAMENT

Labour onslaught on Britain's star wars research

Britain's participation in Star Wars research and the Government's nuclear policy came under attack during question time.

Mr Robert Clay (Sunderland North, Lab) said that the Reykjavik summit had destroyed the illusion that the Strategic Defence Initiative was a serious effort to achieve nuclear disarmament, was the main stumbling block.

He suggested that President Reagan should be told that the only reason the Americans wanted British involvement in SDI was to "rip-off" commercial research by British firms.

He also said that Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, should come clean about the Nato tactical ballistic missile initiative and make an honest statement about it.

Mr Younger said nothing at Reykjavik altered the fact that the Soviet Union had been engaged in research into strategic defence matters for a long time and that their offer there was to prevent the United States carrying on their efforts in these matters while the Russians carried on doing it themselves. This seemed unreasonable.

Sir Anthony Buck (Colchester North, C) said that if they could get away from the doctrine of "mutually assured destruction", it would be a great advantage to the whole world. That was an awful doctrine and he wanted to see something effective substituted for it.

Mr Younger agreed. He said that was why the Government had put such a high priority on encouraging the US to negotiate as strongly as it could for arms reductions provided they were balanced reductions, including all types of armaments, so that the security of the West could be maintained.

Mr Alan Beth (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L) asked if the Government believed that SDI could produce such an effect and, if so, whether it could be deployed as an extra protection for the West. Mr John Wilkinson (Ruislip Northwood, C) said President Reagan was, in fact, set up by the Soviet Union as the villain.

"For General Secretary Gorbachev to make the abandonment of SDI a precondition for arms control progress was a dangerous step on his part with the whole world looking forward to an early summit with the United States, with the agenda settled at Reykjavik, agreed by both sides."

DEFENCE

offered to get rid of all strategic and nuclear weaponry within 10 years, the British Government had been consulted on that offer and whether it agreed with it.

Mr Younger: The British Government was very closely, very effectively and constantly consulted in the preparations for the Reykjavik summit, and I could not possibly have expected any closer consultation than there was (Opposition laughter).

Of course, during the summit, the discussions had to be between those present. The British Government had always tried to get arms reductions. "And if, in due course, taking into account all factors, including conventional and chemical weapons, we can approach a period of big reductions, or even zero, of course we would be able to have a part in that process, but not taking only one part of it on its own."

Mr Roy Hughes (Newport East, Lab) asked whether SDI had, in fact, "scuppered" the Iceland disarmament talks (Conservative cries of "No"). On further Star Wars Tests, further nuclear tests to determine the feasibility of the X-Ray system, he said that if the Government wanted disarmament and a comprehensive test ban treaty, the sooner it got off the ground, the better.

Mr Younger said that was not correct. There had been no suggestion that this particular nuclear test was related to SDI, and indeed the Americans had made clear that they abided within the ABM treaty and, therefore, no nuclear activities in space would be permitted as part of the research into the SDI programme.

On the ending of the Iceland summit, the pretext upon which the agreement nearly reached was not reached was the insistence of the Soviet Union that the US should abandon SDI research, leaving the Russians free to do their own work.

That was "an extremely bad bargain, which the President was quite right to refuse". Mr Antony Marlow (Northampton North, C) commented: If we were to adopt the defence policy or lack of policy sold to the Labour Party by Mrs Ruddock (Joan Ruddock, of CND) and Mrs Kinnock, would not we find that without any Americans, without nuclear weapons, we could defend ourselves only with our own SDI?

Mr Younger: Mr Marlow may well be right on that. But if the British Government had followed the policies as advocated by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Labour Party and others, we would be left with the Soviet Union not prepared to negotiate on any aspect of cruise missiles and we would have the SS20s pointed towards us from western Europe with nothing to replace them.

This whole episode is a complete demolition of the theory on which CND is based. Mr Younger later told Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline West, Lab) that he did not think he had ever suggested that the Russians had breached the ABM treaty and that he made no such suggestion now. As he understood it, both sides were prepared to keep within the treaty but there was some dispute on the precise definition of what that involved.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab) In what conceivable circumstances would our so-called independent nuclear deterrent be used?

Mr Younger: The position of our independent nuclear deterrent is that it should be available as a last resort in case of any circumstances in future in which a last resort response was needed from this country.

If it is government policy that under no circumstances is it prepared to see the United Kingdom give up its deterrent and therefore we will maintain it, no matter what the US does, while there are strong conventional forces in the USSR?

In fact it is not a deterrent against nuclear blackmail but against conventional forces. Mr Younger: We have always made clear that we consider the possession of an independent nuclear deterrent by this country is essential to our security. That has been the view of Labour as well as Conservative governments.

If there were to be very large reductions in strategic systems and no development of any new weapon which was a threat to us we would be prepared to consider whether we could contribute to further reductions.

Later, Mr McNamara questioned the Prime Minister about the role of cruise and Pershing missiles. He said that when the decision was taken to have those weapons in Britain, it was on the grounds that it would force the Russians to take out the SS20s.

"Now that the Russians and Americans have agreed that the SS20 and cruise and Pershing should go, why does she run to the United States to see Reagan and say she did not really mean it and can she keep these weapons here?"

Mr Thatcher: The matter of the intermediate nuclear forces has to be negotiated in Geneva. That is the only place where agreement can be reached. The British Government welcomes the progress made on the INF at Reykjavik. That is consistent with the long-standing (Nato) alliance position that INF must be dealt with on a global basis.

The zero-zero solution was long-term, but some SS20s in Asia were acceptable, provided that the disparity was not too great.



Mr George Younger: Keeping British researchers involved in nuclear defence planning

'Absurd' report by union man denied

EMPLOYMENT

No targets for reductions in the number of benefit recipients were being held down for claimant advisers in employment offices, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Paymaster General and Minister for Employment, said when replying to a private notice question from Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on employment.

Mr Clarke said the latest absurd allegations had arisen out of press reports in which a trade union official had quoted from the minutes of a meeting where a middle-ranking officer had expressed himself in a way which did not have ministerial approval.

He had never suggested that most of the unemployed were not genuinely jobless. But if, in the course of carrying out positive work to help the unemployed back into work or training, officers encountered cases where it was obvious that people were not entitled to the unemployment benefit they were drawing, of course that benefit would be stopped.

It was absolutely absurd to say that amounted to fiddling the unemployment figures. Were Labour MPs really suggesting that such cases should be ignored?

Mr Prescott said that Mr Clarke had informed the House last week that the cost of 1,500 new officers to administer the new work availability test could be paid for by a reduction in claimants of 2 per cent.

Would he confirm that the additional 350 new claimant advisers would be interviewing to check up on unemployed people who would be subjected to the new work availability test? Why was the minister introducing new measures directed against the unemployed when the country knew the problem was not the availability of the

unemployed for work but rather the availability of work for the unemployed?

Mr Clarke said the new form had been tried out for months without complaint. He had said, in reply to a question last week, that if they saved less than 2 per cent by finding people who were not entitled to unemployment benefit it would cover the cost. He was in no way implying that any target was being set down.

Mr Andrew Rowe (Mid Kent, C) said one of the consequences of the new "Restart" programme was that very large numbers of long-term unemployed people had been amazed to find so many opportunities open to them.

Mr Clarke said he had been in Manchester that morning where he had visited an employment office and seen the effects of the "Restart" initiative.

He had seen a young man, who had come along to the job club for the first time in a very long time, who was now able to do a job he thought he might be able to do. All the staff there were pleased with the work being carried out under "Restart" and the job clubs and the unemployed were helping them to help them.

Mr Prescott ran the risk of undermining these new schemes. Mr Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley, L) said if the new claimant advisers turned up cases of people entitled to benefit who were not getting it, would that be regarded as just as effective as getting people off the unemployment register?

Mr Clarke said it would be, though that was unlikely. The whole point of instructions given to the officers was to help people wherever they could.

If officers discovered some people were claiming unemployment benefit who were not entitled to it, the average member of the public would think ministers were mad if they told them to ignore that.

Women deacons measure passes

Deaconesses had a substantial share both in the conduct of public worship and in the general life of the Church of England, the Bishop of Rochester, the Right Rev David Sey, said in the House of Lords when he successfully moved that the Deacons (Ordination of Women) Measure, should be presented for Royal Assent on Friday.

The Measure, which would for the first time allow women deacons to conduct marriage services, would create no serious problems in the relationship of the Anglican Communion with either the Orthodox Church or the Roman Catholic Church, whose members had been watching the progress of the Measure with considerable interest.

He emphasized that the Measure would not allow women to become priests. That would be something for future consideration and debate if and when the time came.

Lady Seear (L) welcomed the Measure which she said gave recognition to the work, qualifications and value of women in the church. As such, it would encourage more women to become deaconesses, so help to relieve the burden of existing workers.

Missiles protest attacked

An ambush by anti-nuclear protesters on a cruise missile convoy returning to Greenham Common from exercises on Salisbury Plain was condemned by a Tory MP during Commons questions.

Mr Patrick McNamara-Wilson (New Forest, C) said the ambush of a military convoy in the early hours of the morning would cause great concern among people of this country.

He asked Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, if he was satisfied that it could be prevented in the future and whether the perpetrators had been apprehended.

Mr Stanley: I have received a report. I understand some arrests were made. Members of the police and other services involved showed immense patience and restraint.

In very different international circumstances from those we have had today, we would have to take a very different attitude towards protection of nuclear weapons.

Sir Anthony Grant (Cambridgeshire South West, C) Many of us would like the Government to have rather more control over security of Nato bases than half-backed local authorities like Cambridgeshire, whose failure to enforce the law against CND and other oddballs is as infuriating to the residents as it is dangerous to the nation.

Mr Stanley said the security position both at Greenham Common and Molesworth was very much better today than it was some time ago.

© The total value of contracts placed by the Ministry of Defence with Rolls-Royce in the first six months of this financial year amounted to £100 million, Mr Archibald Hamilton, Under-Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, said during Commons questions.

Much of the department's business with the company, such as the RB199 engine for Tornados, was contracted for internationally.

He was replying to Mr Michael Stern (Bristol North West, C) who asked for an estimate of the total value of all contracts recently placed by his department with the company.

Mr Hamilton said that it was not possible to provide a reliable estimate of the man-hours involved.

Thatcher defends Tebbit letter

PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister said during question time that the complaint by Mr Norman Tebbit, chairman of the Conservative Party and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, against the BBC was the straightforward one of whether the corporation was breaching its charter and licence agreement.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, had asked her to "condemn the manic efforts of Mr Tebbit to subordinate the BBC to his aims", adding: "Or is he acting under her orders?"

Mrs Thatcher said that the complaint was not for the House to discuss, but for the BBC to reply to.

Mr Kinnock: She is incredible. Is she saying that her creature — he is definitely that — is acting in any straightforward fashion at all? This is a tortuous attempt to intimidate the BBC because it is not manipulating the news in the way she and Mr Tebbit wish. Mrs Thatcher: It may be that Mr Kinnock has read the submission, but from what he has said, it does not seem to me that he has.

If he had, he would have seen that it was in reference to the terms and conditions under which they broadcast that the complaint was made. It is a matter of fact that the governors of the BBC to consider. It is only the governors who can decide on and reply to that complaint. It was a fairly measured complaint and if he reads it he will see that.

Mr Kinnock: I have read it. It is a complaint, which is entirely wrong. Mrs Thatcher: It is a matter for the governors, and only the governors, to see whether the charter or licence agreement have been breached. It is not for us to have an argument about it. It is for the governors to reply.

Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP: Was it not the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster who was complaining to the BBC, but Mr Tebbit acted in his role as chairman of the Conservative Party?

If so, how are the two roles distinguished? Surely the Board of Governors is responsible for the BBC and it is they who should reply to the Conservative Party. The Government should distance itself from Mr Tebbit in his other role.

Mrs Thatcher: Dr Owen is right. Mr Tebbit made the complaint to the chairman of the Conservative Party. On that basis I should refuse to answer questions.

Later, during points of order after Prime Minister's question time, there was laughter in the chamber when Mr James Callaghan (Cardiff South, and Peasmarsh, Lab), the former Prime Minister, asked the Speaker: Can you advise us how to distinguish between the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster requesting the BBC to be impartial and fair, and the chairman of the Conservative Party sending them a bullying letter?

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) replied: I am not in any way responsible for the chairman of political parties, but I am responsible for the ministers in this House when they come to the despatch box.

Move on work time rejected

An attempt to reverse a decision by the Commons to abandon a clause on working hours, added by the House of Lords to the Sex Discrimination Bill, was rejected by 36 votes to 30 — Government majority, 26.

He argued that the House had been correct when it originally defeated the Government and inserted the clause into the Bill because there was a danger that women would be exploited.

Lord Young of Graftonham, Secretary of State for Employment, said the clause would achieve nothing positive. No advantage would accrue from introducing such a complex, unwieldy and time-consuming consultation procedure.

Poll blow for the Alliance

By Nicholas Wood Political Reporter

The Alliance's hopes of using the Knowsley North by-election as a platform for a electoral revival suffered a severe setback last night with the publication of an opinion poll carried out in the Labour Merseyside stronghold.

It predicts that the centre party will trail home a poor second to Labour with the Conservatives in third place. According to the survey, Labour will get 67 per cent of the vote next Thursday, the Alliance 22 per cent and the Conservatives 10 per cent.

The prediction will come as a bitter blow to Mr David Steel and Dr David Owen, the Alliance leaders.



Mr David Trippier, an Employment junior minister (left), speaking with the Tory candidate at Knowsley North, Mr Roger Brown, yesterday.

Hospital, Liverpool, will inherit something approaching the 17,000 majority achieved by his predecessor Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk.

The projected Tory vote, although pitifully small, will not cause great dismay at Conservative Central Office because it is nevertheless 4 per cent above the trend established in the 12 by-elections since the 1983 general election.

Building office is closed

By Richard Evans Political Correspondent

A council direct labour organization which made a loss of £3.3 million inside three years was closed yesterday on government orders.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday that a report disclosed the full extent of losses incurred on new building works by the London Borough of Newham's directly employed labour force.

More than £2 million was lost in 1984-85 alone. The council has stopped awarding new building projects to its direct labour organization, but it expects further losses of about £2 million for 1985-86.

Tebbit attack 'is having its effect'

By Our Political Reporter

Mr Norman Tebbit's attack on the BBC for alleged bias in its coverage on the Libyan bombing raid is already paying dividends, a government minister said yesterday.

The corporation has begun to take additional care to ensure that its reporting of political issues is fair and balanced, according to Mr David Trippier, an under-secretary at the Department of Employment.

Mr Trippier dismissed reports that many of his fellow ministers believe the Tory chairman had over-reacted with his highly publicized assault on the BBC's integrity. He said they stood "shoulder to shoulder" with Mr

Anti-crime cash grant

The Department of Transport is to make a grant of £15 million to London Regional Transport over the next three years to invest in anti-crime measures on the London Underground.

Mr David Mitchell, Minister of State for Transport, said in a written reply.

This is a sequel to a study launched as a result of the Prime Minister's seminar on crime prevention in January this year. The study identified measures that are now being financed and LRT is to prepare a detailed programme of implementation, which Mr Mitchell will discuss with the authority.

Parliament today Commons (2.30): National Health Service (Amendment) Bill, Lords amendments. Rate Support Grant (Scotland) Order. Lords (2.30): Motion to disapprove statement on change in immigration rules.

Emergency work is not all blood and anguish — carpentry skills may be needed

Examining the facts at Guy's casualty ward

It is 8.42pm in the casualty ward of Guy's Hospital and Dr David Walsh has just completed the first hour of a shift which will not end until 8.30 next morning.

Behind a curtain a boy aged 15 is having his hand dressed after a firework accident and a queue of 12 people wait patiently in the corridor for their turn.

A nurse is looking for a saw to cut a walking stick down to size. "I'll never make a carpenter," she said with a wry smile.

Senior Staff Nurse Judy Morgan, aged 26, managed to grab a moment or two's respite to ponder the truths and fictions of the television series, *Casualty*, which looks like being the latest battleground in the current war between the Government and the BBC.

Nurses and doctors around the country have over the programme's emphasis on constant love affairs, drinking and drug taking by hospital staff on duty, while Westminster's fury is directed at what ministers see as the script's left-wing condemnation of the NHS and the economies being imposed upon it.

"We don't spend our time popping pills or swigging gulps of whisky," Nurse Morgan said.

The BBC's drama series, *Casualty*, which has just ended, attracted a Saturday night audience of nine million viewers.

It angered doctors and nurses at the hospital where it was researched and prompted allegations of anti-Government bias from ministers.

William Greaves spent a night in one of London's busiest casualty wards to compare fact with fiction.

"It's a stressful job and we all have our social problems like anyone else, but we don't bring them to work with us and we don't shout them out to all and sundry in the coffee room."

"Nurses are human beings first and we behave like human beings. We're not angels — we eat, drink and sleep like anyone else."

"Nurses do go out with doctors, of course they do, but they go out with policemen and firemen and bank managers, too. Whoops!"

Suddenly, the doors of the ward crash open and a man carrying a young woman in his arms shouts: "Emergency, emergency!" at the top of his voice. A second woman runs behind with her face in her hands, screaming: "She can't breathe, someone help her, please!"

For the sufferer and those that worried for her it was an incomprehensible moment of undiluted fear. For the staff in

casualty it was another incident — a crisis which would be met with practised efficiency.

Casualty receptionist Carmel Rowe took the name and age of the woman and entered: "Difficulty in breathing" into the register.

The other entries made it a typical enough list — acute asthma; a 31-year-old man who had injured his right arm in a fall; a woman in labour; another with an infected finger; someone from Kent with abdominal pains; an ear infection; lacerated finger and injured right ankle.

"The waiting time is about two to three hours at the moment," Carmel said. "Everybody who comes here gets seen, but the surprising thing is how many people come with injuries and illnesses which are really routine and would be much better taken to their doctor's surgery."

"They have to wait hours because every urgent case



Sister Diana Smith (left) prepares a plaster for Sarah Allbury, while Student Nurse Mandy Cavin comforts a distressed woman (Photograph: Alan Weller).

which comes in gets seen immediately and pushes them further down the queue."

The lights of an ambulance alert the staff back into action stations, but this time there are no signs of alarm. An elderly man in a dressing gown is wheeled in by two ambulance men.

They know where to go and one of them returns to the

desk to give name and address. "CVA," he says succinctly, and the entry is made.

"Cardiac Vascular Accident," Carmel explains. "It means stroke really, but we use the initials because if the patient or relatives overhear they tend to get frightened."

The time ticks by and the queue gradually shortens in the corridor.

Nurses making coffee in the rest room and heating up the dinners they have brought with them all agree that the biggest inaccuracy in any television representation of casualty wards is the speed with which things happen and the constant evidence of blood and gore.

Serious road accidents, knifings and other manifesta-

tions of violent society are few and far between, they say.

But one of the messages of the latest television series — and, ironically, the one which has created the most angry response in government circles — was readily confirmed by Sister Diana Smith. "I've been in nursing for 10 years," she says, "and there is no doubt that the cuts in NHS

spending are really beginning to bite.

"Hospital stocks have been reduced so much that we have gone weeks without any slings and we've been without tubular dressings for four or five weeks now."

"Just imagine it — a casualty department without slings. It isn't the hospital's fault, but it all adds to the workload."

"We're also terribly short of beds. We've got 12 beds here and half the time they are filled with people who have to be admitted, but are waiting for a bed in a ward."

"Our record is a patient stuck behind a curtain for 7½ hours, just because there was nowhere else to put him. It isn't just their inconvenience, it could mean that if a really serious multiple road crash comes in all our accommodation for treating the casualties is taken up by people who shouldn't be here at all."

By 3.30am Dr Walsh is just beginning to relax. He has been working single-handed without a break for six hours and the queue has almost disappeared.

"We're down to the alcoholics anonymous cases now," he jokes, ruefully listening to the obscene language coming from a drunken man, who has brought his equally drunk girlfriend in with a cut head.

"We're too busy for politics and by and large we get by," he says. "But it's the nursing staff who are really feeling the strain and particularly the student nurses — they get all the lousy jobs because there's no one else to do them."

House price rises remaining steady

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

House prices increased in Britain by 13.6 per cent during the year to the end of October, according to the latest house price index published by the Halifax Building Society yesterday.

This is the same as the plateau of increases reached in July and August. The figures show that in the past three months, house prices have increased by 2.9 per cent compared with 2.5 per cent in the three months to the end of September, but remain well below the peak of 5.4 per cent reached in the three months to June.

New house prices increased by 11.4 per cent in the year to October compared with 10.7 per cent in September.

As a result of the increase, house price inflation remains at four times retail price inflation and nearly double that of average earnings.

The Halifax states that the average price of all houses stands at £41,554, while the average for new houses is £46,780. The average price paid by first-time buyers in October was £31,420, 13.4 per cent higher than a year ago.

For London the rate of increase remains at an annual 25 per cent, similar to that for



the past five months. In the South-east the annual increase has been 20 per cent.

The Halifax forecasts that house price inflation in 1987 will remain in double figures.

Search for Barton girl's body

Detectives are hoping that Ronald Barton, the convicted murderer, will show them the exact place where he hid the body of his stepdaughter, Keigley.

Barton, who was jailed for life last week for killing the girl, aged 14, told prison staff that he dumped her body in an overgrown cemetery in Stoke Newington, north London.

Police with dogs started their search of the 32-acre cemetery on Monday and yesterday a team of 60 police cadets arrived to help.

Det Supt Charles Farquhar, leading the investigation, said a full search of the rambling graveyard would take three days.

"The day after he was sentenced Barton told a member of the prison staff that he had hidden her body here," Mr Farquhar said.

"We had hoped to get him to show us exactly where he had hidden her."

Chemical threat to barn owls

Conservationists fear that barn owls are facing yet another threat to their diminishing population in the shape of a new and potent agricultural poison.

More than a dozen of the increasingly rare birds have been found dead in the Ipswich and Woodbridge area of Suffolk in the past few days.

Mr Reg Snook, a Department of the Environment wildlife inspector, yesterday said: "All the signs point to poison."

Laboratory tests are being carried out to determine why they died, but it looks as though farmers could be using a new, much more powerful pesticide which owls are taking in.

Barn owl numbers in East Anglia have been drastically reduced because of increased traffic, traps, and the disappearance of their natural habitat.

MP's benefit plea for young athletes

By Angela Johnson

The future of some of Britain's best sporting hopes may rest on a case being put to the House of Commons this week to stop unemployed amateurs losing their social security benefit while competing abroad.

Mr Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swansea West, plans to argue the case of the Welsh athlete, Karen Hough, in an early day motion for a new benefit rule, which would allow athletes to claim supplementary benefit while competing in overseas championships.

Karen, aged 18, of Bryn-y-Bryn, Killay, Swansea, is one of Britain's top junior javelin throwers. She lost her £47 benefit for two weeks while competing in the European Championships in Stuttgart because the DSS ruled that she was unavailable for work.

She was told by her local benefit office that her attendance at competitions abroad could not receive any money

because she could not attend job interviews.

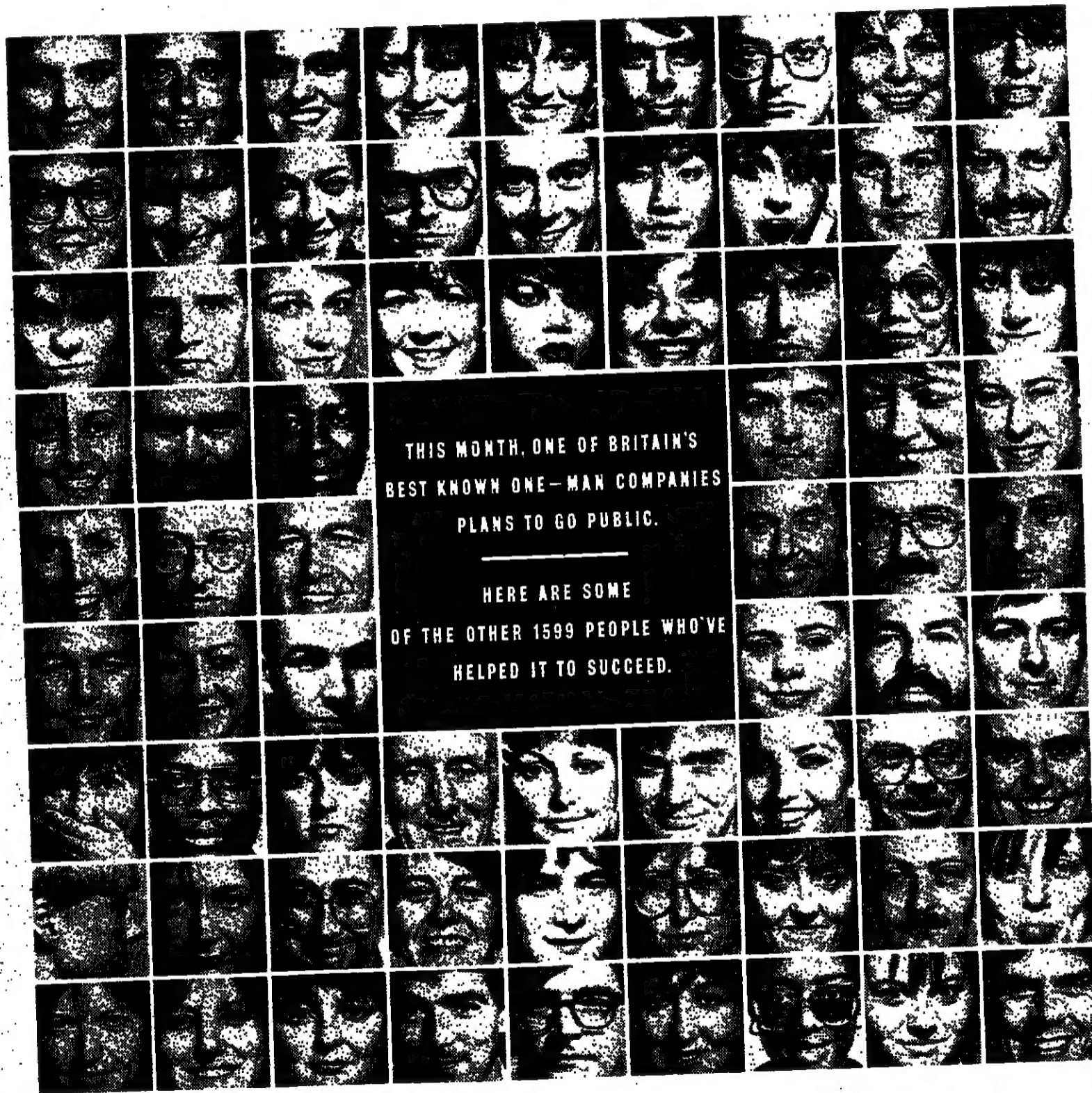
Mr Williams appealed to Mr Nicholas Lyell, Under Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security, but was told in a letter that the rules could not be relaxed.

Karen said: "I was very upset when I returned, to find that my money had been stopped and I had to sign on again, but this is not uncommon among young athletes."

"Fortunately I was able to turn to my parents for financial support, but many full-time amateurs find it difficult to cope and are unable to attend international events. Yet it is this experience which is needed to help us become medal winners."

Mr Tony Ward, of the British Amateur Athletics Board, said: "The current law hits at the athletes of the future, who at present are struggling to find enough money to live on while dedicating themselves to improving their skills."

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FROM THE ROCK MARKET TO THE STOCK MARKET.

Civil Servants responding to demands for more efficiency

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

The Civil Service, so often criticised for being bureaucratic and unwieldy, is well on the way to becoming a much more efficient government machine, a report disclosed yesterday.

The optimistic assessment comes after a detailed inquiry by Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, into how Whitehall has responded to ministerial demands to improve the Civil Service's effectiveness and achieve better value for money from government spending which totals more than £100 million.

His investigation concentrates on how individual departments reacted to a financial management initiative (FMI) launched in May 1982 by the Prime Minister, whose underlying aim was to encourage a more managerial approach to government business.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's efficiency drive was intended to improve the allocation, management and control of resources throughout central government.

Thirty-one government departments were required to

review their systems of management responsibility, financial accountability and control.

They all ended up changing their practices or introducing new systems.

Sir Gordon looked specifically to see if the Whitehall shake-up would help Civil Service managers to secure better value for money.

"My broad conclusions are that real progress is being made in the development of suitable systems and there are not serious shortcomings in the departments examined," Sir Gordon said.

Individual government departments believe the efficiency initiative had results in greater cost-consciousness. But Sir Gordon concluded that the new management systems had not been in place long enough for their full effect on gaining value for money to become apparent.

He added: "It is important to continue the work aimed at demonstrating not only that the FMI improves the quality of management but also that this improvement in turn results in better value for money."



Lining up for the annual Whitbread Book of the Year award are the five winners of the different literary categories, from left: Jim Crace, Peter Reading, Andrew Taylor, Richard Mabey, and Kazuo Ishiguro (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Solicitor questioned on £20m funds

A solicitor was questioned at a bankruptcy court yesterday about what had happened to £20 million of clients' money which went through an account he held.

Mr Anthony McGrath, aged 48, of Corcoran Road, Surbiton, Surrey, whose statement of affairs showed liabilities of more than £3 mil-

lion, said that he found it incredible that he should be asked about the money.

Mr Jaffray Mogg, assistant official receiver, told him at Kingston Bankruptcy court: "From August 1984 to January 1985, sums totalling £20,489,804 went into your clients' account and it ended up with a zero balance."

Mr McGrath, who had practised at Tolworth, Surrey, under the name of Whelton, replied: "I find this question astounding. The money belonged to clients. It came in and went out. If you are suggesting that clients' money has been misappropriated I find it incredible."

Mr McGrath claimed his shareholding in a management consultancy was worth more than £1 million but, pressed by Mr George Davey for the public trustee, he agreed that this depended on a forthcoming contract.

The public examination was adjourned until February 24.

Whitbread Awards

Tales of mystery and imagination contend for prize

By Philip Howard

A novel about those mysteries wrapped in original enigmas, old and new Japan; a moral allegory-fantasy about a seventh-century out-of-this-world continent; the biography of the country curate who became England's most famous naturalist; a mystery adventure connected with the miners' strike; and some sharp, sardonic poems about contemporary Britain are the five category winners in the Whitbread Literary Awards.

The authors receive £1,000 each. On 13 January one of the five will be voted the Whitbread Book of the Year, and its author given a further £17,500, which makes the Whitbread Britain's most valuable literary prize.

The five category winners announced yesterday are:

Novel

An Artist of the Floating World, by Kazuo Ishiguro (Faber, £8.95).

The time is 1948, the place Nagasaki. An ageing Japanese painter, famous before the world earthquake, looks back over his life in punishment and grief. His career that coincided with the rise of Japanese militarism.

Whatever mistakes it may have made in the past, Japan now has a chance to make a better go of things. He can only wish these new and alien young Japanese well. As delicate as a Japanese water-colour, this novel, exposing the roots of a complex culture, was on the short list for the Booker Prize. Ishiguro was born in Nagasaki in 1954, came to England when he was six, was educated at the universities of Canterbury and East Anglia, and writes beautifully and idiosyncratically in English; his Japanese is just about good enough to manage comical. Since his first novel, *A Pale View of Hills*, was given awards and international acclaim, Ishiguro has been one of our brightest young novelists writing in English.

First Novel

Coastland, by Jim Crace (Hinemann, £4.95).

In the mythical, science-fiction world of the seventh continent, past and present are discontinuous and custom and progress form a dangerous flux. Seven stories interlock to explore the irreconcilable forces implicit in all cultures: a tribe on heat like dogs; a calligrapher loses his skill; a runner pitched against a horseman; a love story between a young girl and a soldier; a geologist searches for rare minerals. The techniques are bold and modern. The seven narratives combine to form a new world that seems strangely familiar. Jim Crace was born in 1946, and brought up in north London. He read English Literature as an external student at London University, worked in Sudanese educational television, and became a freelance journalist and script-writer. He was awarded a writing bursary by the Arts Council and was writer in residence at the Midlands Arts Centre.

Biography

Gilbert White, A Biography of the Author of *The Natural History of Selborne*, by Richard Mabey (Century, £14.95).

The language of birds is very ancient, and, like other ancient modes of speech, very elliptical: little is said, but much is meant and understood. Gilbert White's account of the intimate life of the birds and other wildlife around his parish 200 years ago is one of the best loved nature books ever written.

Both scientist and poet, and an intellectual in touch with the philosophical and cultural issues of his age, White deter-

mined to write a new kind of book. He gave up the chance of a prosperous living and marriage, and devoted 18 years to producing his masterpiece, which became a turning-point in our view of nature.

This first comprehensive biography for 80 years deploys much unpublished correspondence and archive material to describe the natural history of an enigmatic man.

Richard Mabey read PPE at Oxford, taught liberal studies at a college of further education, worked as an editor in publishing, and is now a full-time writer and broadcaster on country matters.

Children's novel

The Coal House, by Andrew Taylor (Collins, £5.95).

Alison is 13. Her mother has just died. She has a house in the North, 300 miles away from the world she knows. She is full of resentment, and determined to hate the rambling old Coal House, home of the Victorian pit owner. In the overgrown garden she meets Tommy, cheerfully trespassing, and begins to discover clues about the past owners of the house, and the tragedy in their lives.

Through her new friend, Tommy, she comes to identify with the local miners on strike, and becomes involved in their struggle. But there is another interloper lurking around the Coal House.

Alison and her father discover in their separate ways the secret of the stalkers in the woods. Andrew Taylor was born in Scotland, but now lives in the Durham countryside. He is a marketing consultant, and has written several stage and television plays. This is his first novel for children.

Poetry

Stet, by Peter Reading (Secker & Warburg, £1.95).

Harsh, violent verses come to terms with life in contemporary Britain in the front line. They are clever, witty, inventive, slangy, funny, and serious.

As the poet says in one of them: "Must sing the Grotty (scant alternative)". He says of his poetry: "Art has always struck me most when it was to do with coping with things, hard things, things that are difficult to take."

If you want art to be like Ovaltine, then clearly some artists are not for you. Ovaltine is not, but vodka, maths, and occasionally strychnine.

Peter Reading was born in 1946, and trained as a painter at Liverpool College of Art. After a spell as a teacher, he returned to Liverpool to lecture in the Department of Art History. He was given the Cholmondeley Award in 1978, and the Dylan Thomas Award in 1983.

He lives in Shropshire, and has had various jobs there including working in an animal-feed mill.

Prose accessment in the short lists, in alphabetical order by author name.

Novels: *Gabriel's Lament*, by Gabriel Josipovici; *The Shrapnel Academy*, by Fay Weldon.

First novels: *The Song of the Forest*, by Colin Mackay; *Seeing Things*, by Frances Thomas.

Biography: *G.K. Chesterton*, by Michael Finch; *Road to Victory*, by Winston S. Churchill 1941-1945, by Martin Gilbert; *The Lamberts*, by Andrew Motion.

Children's novel: *Isaac Camplon*, by Janni Howker; *Return of the Indian*, by Lynne Reid Banks; *How's Moving Castle*, by Diana Wayne Jones.

Poetry: *Terra*, by Ken Smith.

Woman says her sons are not racist

A woman who could lose her London council flat because her two sons allegedly abused their Bengali neighbour denied yesterday that her family were racists.

Mrs Maria Hawkins told Clerkenwell County Court that both her sons had gone to schools that had mixed racial groups and had "many ethnic friends".

Camden council is seeking to evict Mrs Hawkins's three-bedroom flat in the Blemensbury tower block, Dombey Street, on the Tyldal Close estate in Holborn, central London, under the Housing Act 1980.

It is alleged that Frank Hawkins, aged 17, and his brother, Charles, aged 26, carried out a five-year campaign of racial harassment against Mr Abdul Ali and his wife and six children.

Frank Hawkins is also accused of punching one of Mr Ali's sons and smashing windows at their flat with a bench. Although Mrs Hawkins is not accused of racial harassment herself, Camden wants

to evict her because it claims that as the tenancy holder she is responsible for the behaviour of people living in the flat.

The brothers have been summoned for causing "nuisance and annoyance" to the Ali family by racial harassment.

Mrs Hawkins faces two summonses for £138 rent and heating arrears and defying an earlier court order banning her mongrel dog from the estate. The case continues.

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COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

What has struck me immediately on this visit to the United States is the remarkable spirit of American optimism about disarmament that has followed Reykjavik. A near international catastrophe has been transformed into something close to a domestic political triumph.

This has been achieved partly by a calculated propaganda exercise on the part of the Administration and also by President Reagan's extraordinary capacity to make his countrymen share his own sunny view of the world.

This sense of optimism will now be put to an initial test with the first high-level meeting between Soviet and American leaders since the summit when Mr George Shultz and Mr Edward Shevardnadze come together today in Vienna.

The American intention is that this should be an occasion not so much for fresh negotiations as for clarifying and refining the disagreements that emerged in Reykjavik. This is certainly necessary.

The summit was characterized both by a failure to refine the issues before the two sides got there and by the confusion after they left as to what had or had not been tentatively agreed before the breakdown.

There appear now to be four principle differences between them. The United States is speaking of eliminating all offensive ballistic missiles at the end of 10 years, while the Soviets want to get rid of all strategic arms.

No agreement on limitations

Then they do not agree as to what limitations there should be within that period on research, development and testing of the Strategic Defence Initiative. Soviet diplomats appear to have been suggesting that their definition of laboratory testing might not be too restrictive. But that would not get round the American objection that they must be allowed to test a defensive space system in space.

The third disagreement is that the United States wants the right to deploy SDI after 10 years, while the Soviet Union maintains that there should then be further negotiations on any possible deployment.

Finally, there are conflicting views as to what should be done about the smaller intermediate range missiles that the Soviet Union has in eastern Europe.

The United States argues that if the larger intermediate missiles — the Cruise, Pershing and SS20s — were all removed from Europe then there should be a freeze on Soviet deployment of the smaller missiles with the Americans having the right to match them. The Soviet Union would like to have simply a freeze at current levels, which would confirm their present advantage.

Even if agreement cannot be reached on any of these points, it would be sensible for both sides to be absolutely clear on where they differ. That is a more methodical procedure for negotiations and more likely to yield a lasting settlement in the long run.

But there are in fact two reasons for hoping that the discussions in Vienna do not get beyond the task of clarification. Mr Shultz has emerged as the principal enthusiast within the Administration for pressing on from the Reykjavik base camp to a comprehensive settlement. If he were given his head in Vienna he might rush to ill-considered positions which would not be in the best interest of the Western Alliance.

The other reason for passing at this stage is that a period of reflection is needed in Washington on the implications of Reykjavik. There are some signs of second thoughts beginning to emerge on the wisdom of talking about a non-nuclear world or of negotiating away all ballistic missiles and all Euro missiles.

The Administration is not all of one mind on these questions and a process of reassessment may become easier now that the mid-term elections are over.

It is very much in the interest of the European allies that this should take place because there is a real risk of the United States undermining confidence in its commitment to Europe almost unaware as it pursues such objectives as the elimination of ballistic missiles which are beyond its grasp anyway.

Howe call unheeded

Shevardnadze ends hope of separate accord on missiles

From Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent, Vienna

Any hope of an agreement to remove Soviet SS 20 and American cruise and Pershing 2 missiles from Europe without waiting for a comprehensive East-West disarmament accord was dispelled yesterday.

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, told Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, that the Soviet Union was prepared to accept nothing less than an overall agreement on nuclear weapons.

A meeting before the opening of the third follow-up to the European Conference on Security and Co-operation revealed no softening of the stand made by the Russians at last month's Reykjavik summit.

The Soviet demand that the US should agree not to test laser weapons in space as part of an overall nuclear agreement remained firm. Sir Geoffrey's calls for early progress to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear weapons (INF) and short-range missiles went unheeded.

"I told Mr Shevardnadze that it was illogical and a retrograde step to make such an agreement conditional on an understanding on SDI (the American Strategic Defence Initiative)," said Sir Geoffrey.

Mr Shevardnadze indicated that the Soviet Union now required that any package should cover progress on strategic weapons, intermediate-range nuclear weapons and a longer period of non-withdrawal from the 1972 ABM (Anti-Ballistic Missile) Treaty.

Sir Geoffrey responded with two British Government linkages. Any agreement to eliminate INF missiles from Europe should also cover short-range nuclear missiles, and any overall nuclear agreement should be accompanied by comparable progress on troop reductions.

"The Russians say they are ready to scrap all nuclear weapons within 10 years," the Foreign Secretary said at a press conference later.

"If they are sincere — and there are many who remain to be convinced — no one in Western Europe can view that prospect as satisfactory while the continent lies under the shadow of the Soviet Union's superiority in conventional and chemical weapons."

He told Mr Shevardnadze that the Soviets would have to be more forthcoming with information on troop levels if progress were to be made on the ambitious troop cuts proposed by the Warsaw Pact in June.

Sir Geoffrey took Mr Shevardnadze to task for having effectively sided with the Syrians when Britain broke relations over the involvement of their ambassador and secret service in a plot to destroy an El-Al airliner. He said he would be looking for a "more constructive Soviet approach" on this issue.

However, Mr Shevardnadze welcomed a British initiative for Anglo-Soviet talks on terrorism. Experts from the two countries are expected to meet by the end of the year.

"Our aim was to find out whether there is scope for co-operation between the two countries on this," said Sir Geoffrey.

A Soviet expert yesterday called on the West to respond to the "Budapest appeal" in which the Warsaw Pact called for each side to withdraw 500,000 troops by the 1990s.

Mr Oleg Grinewski, head of the Soviet delegation at the Stockholm talks on advanced notice of military exercises which ended in September, said: "It is time they presented a programme for disarmament in Vienna. Further foot-dragging would not be in the interests of the world."

Mozambique unrest

Frelimo youth sack Malawi Embassy

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Angry youths sacked the Malawi Embassy and threw stones and rotten tomatoes at the offices of the South African Trade Mission in Maputo yesterday.

News of the demonstrations came as President Botha sent a message to President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, congratulating him on his election on Monday.

Pretoria claims that Mozambique is allowing guerrillas of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) to use its territory as a sanctuary, and Maputo maintains that South Africa is continuing to support Renamo insurgents inside Mozambique.

Yesterday's trouble started with a march by members of the youth organisation of Frelimo, Mozambique's sole political party. The intention had been to deliver a protest note to the South African and Malawi representatives, but part of the crowd turned violent and some stoned the South African Trade Mission, breaking several windows.

A larger group of demonstrators ransacked the Malawi Embassy, dragging furniture and piles of documents into the street and setting them alight. The Malawi flag was also torn down and thrown on the bonfire.

Slogans reading "Samora lives" and "Banda is a murderer" were daubed on the walls of the Embassy. The demonstrators also carried placards calling for an explanation of the October 19 air crash, which Mozambique newspapers have accused

South Africa of being responsible for.

President Banda of Malawi, the southern tip of which thrusts deeply into central Mozambique, has been accused by Maputo of allowing Renamo insurgents to operate from his territory. Shortly before he died, President Machel threatened to instal missiles along the border with Malawi.

On October 21, young demonstrators in Harare, the Zimbabwe capital, stoned the Malawi High Commission and set fire to the offices of Air Malawi. They also attacked the South African Trade Mission, set fire to the South African Airways offices and threw stones at the American Embassy.

Mr Carlos Cardoso, the director of AIM, the semi-official Mozambique news agency, told *The Times* yesterday that Mr Sergio Vieira, the Minister of Security, went to the Malawi Embassy and persuaded the youths to disperse, telling them that this was not how President Machel would have wanted them to express their anger.

The South African Foreign Minister, Mr R. F. "Pik" Botha, announced yesterday that Pretoria had decided to call for the inclusion of international experts in the panel investigating the air crash in which Mr Machel died.

● HARARE: The Zimbabwe House of Assembly is to be asked to pass a resolution today pledging full support for President Chissano of Mozambique in his civil war with right-wing Mozambique Resistance Movement.

Oslo sends minister on pollution mission

From Tony Samstag, Oslo

Mrs Sissel Roenbeck, the Norwegian Minister for the Environment, today begins a two-day visit to Britain armed with a list of issues long enough to strain the eyesight, if not the patience, of her hosts.

She will, of course, be reiterating Oslo's demands that Britain join the 30 Per Cent Club of nations committed to reducing sulphur emissions from power stations — emissions that are thought to have poisoned thousands of Scandinavian lakes and rivers.

Hopes that Mrs Thatcher would commit Britain to such an endeavour when she visited Oslo in September were dashed amid fierce anti-British rioting there.

Mrs Roenbeck — who shortly after taking office in

May fired two of the most strongly worded messages Britain has ever received from Oslo on the issue of acid rain and proposals for a nuclear waste reprocessing plant at Dounreay — is expected to tell Mr William Waldegrave, her British counterpart, and Lord Marshall, head of the Central Electricity Generating Board, that concern over both issues has grown.

Recent studies show a strong link between levels of aluminium in drinking water and rates of pre-senility and senility (including Alzheimer's disease) in populations living within the "acid rain belt" of southern Norway.

"I'm only 35 and I'm worried," Mrs Roenbeck told *The Times*. "It really makes us anxious."



Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, meeting in Vienna yesterday.

Rome orders Aids tests in prisons

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Italian Government has ordered that all consenting prisoners be tested to see if they are carrying the Aids virus. This is one of the steps being taken to deal with the release of an estimated 12,000 convicts before the year is out.

The exodus is due to more liberal prison regulations now coming into effect and to a projected amnesty due to be approved by Christmas. The first releases under the new regulations took place at the weekend and have now reached 250. It is estimated that as many as 5,000 prisoners may benefit.

The object of the prison reform is to concentrate on re-education. In principle, the prisoner who proves by his conduct that he is intent on self-improvement will be able to ask for remission of his sentence of up to 45 days for every six months served. He could also ask for an annual "holiday" of up to 45 days a year, to be taken in fortnightly periods.

A prisoner sentenced to life imprisonment will now be able to take some holiday after the first 10 years so long as he behaves well, has good relations with other prisoners and co-operates in the work of re-education. After another 10 years he will need only to sleep inside the prison. And finally he could expect to be granted an early release.

The problem involving the threat of a further spread of Aids is raised by the fact that legislation cannot be passed in time before the exodus takes place to make medical tests obligatory. At the moment the only one which can be imposed by law is the Wasserman test for syphilis.

Israel PM silent on Vanunu

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The Prime Minister of Israel, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, made his first public comment yesterday about the disappearance of Mr Mordechai Vanunu, the nuclear technician who told *The Sunday Times* Israel had developed a nuclear arsenal.

Mr Shamir tersely told a radio reporter that Israel was not under any pressure to say anything on the subject. The Government, he said, would do so only when it deemed it appropriate and it would continue to do its duty by its citizens. He would say nothing else.

WORLD SUMMARY

US setback on abortion curbs

Washington — The Supreme Court has severely set back nationwide efforts to restrict abortion by ruling that states cannot cut off public funds to private family planning and pregnancy counselling organizations that also offer abortions (Christopher Thomas writes).

The court, voting five to three, said in the majority decision that Arizona acted improperly when it barred state family planning funds for groups providing abortions or abortion counselling.

Mugabe insult

Harare — A woman from Zimbabwe's Ndebele minority tribe has been jailed for six months without the option of a fine for saying that she wished the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, had been killed with Mozambique's President Machel in the October 19 air crash in northern South Africa (Michael Hartnack writes).

Attack on Aids

Washington — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has made new recommendations to further reducing the risk of Aids transmission through the blood supply, and has expanded the list of those who should not donate blood to include prostitute and their recent heterosexual customers (Mohsin Ali writes).

Alfonsín appeal

Buenos Aires (Reuters) — President Alfonsín of Argentina has asked President Reagan to support his protest against Britain's establishment of a fishing zone around the disputed Falkland Islands, a government statement said.

Señor Alfonsín made a 10-minute telephone call to Mr Reagan in California and asked for his "understanding and support".

Buses boycott

Johannesburg — Buses running between here and Soweto were boycotted for the second successive day in protest against a 17.5 per cent fare increase (Michael Hornsby writes).

One bus driver suffered eye injuries and concussion when his vehicle was attacked by a stone-throwing mob in Soweto.

Scheme for Suez

Cairo (AFP) — The Suez Canal Authority may adapt the waterway for two-way working, the authority working, the authority president, Mr Ezzat Adel told a conference marking the 30th anniversary of its nationalization.

Egyptian labour equipment would be used, he said, but he gave no starting date.

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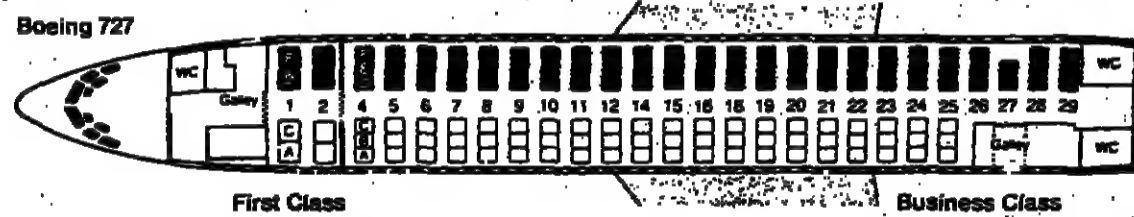
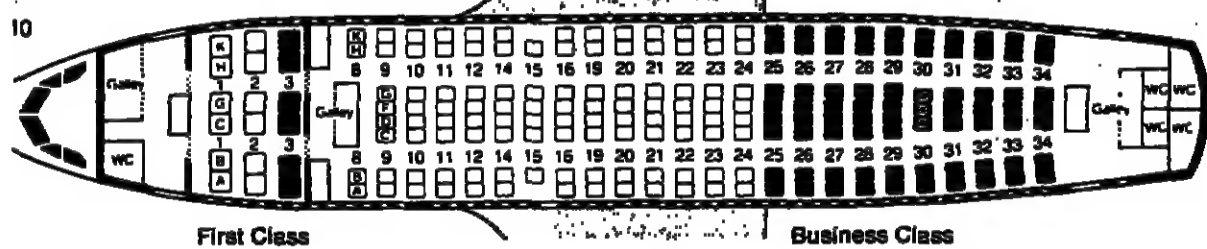
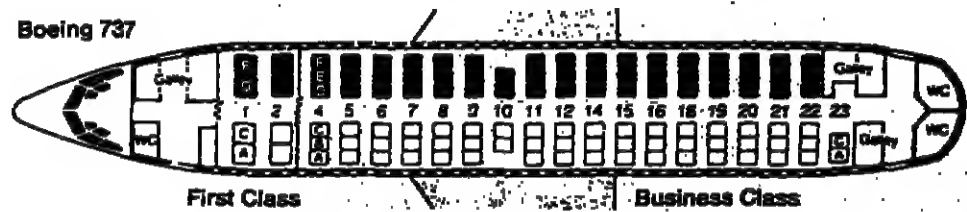
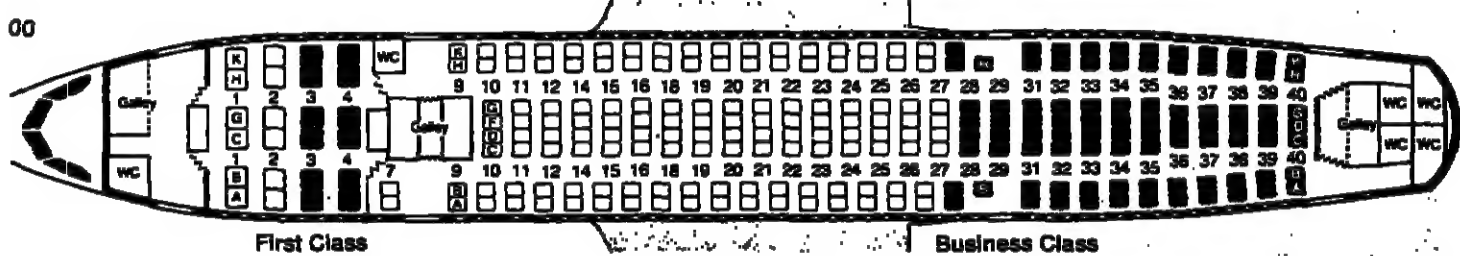
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Lawyers will not dispute facts on plane shot down in Nicaragua

Defence says surviving airman had minor part in Contra arms lift

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Lawyers representing Mr. Eugene Hasenfus, the American airman charged with terrorism in Nicaragua, said they would not dispute the facts of the case against him.

Mr. Griffin Bell, a former US Attorney-General who is advising Nicaraguan lawyers on the American's behalf, said the defence would not challenge the fact that Mr. Hasenfus had been running guns to the American-backed Contras when his plane was shot down on October 3.

"The main thing that you could say on his behalf is that he was not very high in the operation," said Mr. Bell. "He is a little man and I would hope that the Sandinista Government would be kind to little people."

The defence would offer only mitigating evidence designed to prove that Mr. Hasenfus had no political motive for his action and had simply been working for wages. Mr. Bell hoped that the Nicaraguan Government would be merciful.

The American faces up to 30 years in prison on charges of terrorism, violating national security and taking part in an illicit association with CIA agents.

The defence says Mr. Hasenfus is simply an employee of a legally-constituted aviation company who had no direct knowledge of any CIA involvement in the Contra supply operation.

The prosecution has alleged that the company, Corporate Air Services of Pennsylvania, is a front for a CIA undercover operation aimed at overthrowing the Nicaraguan Government and that Mr. Hasenfus knew this.

A Nicaraguan aviation expert, Señor Hugo Mendez, told the Revolutionary People's Tribunal, which is hearing the case, that flight logs recovered from the ill-fated cargo plane showed that it had changed its registration number four times and had been flying with no number at all when it was shot down.

Mr. Bell said on Monday that he would present pay cheques from Corporate Air Services and affidavits from Mr. Hasenfus and his wife, Sally, in an effort to demonstrate that Mr. Hasenfus was not a CIA conspirator.

"I do not think he was a terrorist in the sense of terrorism as we know it," Mr. Bell said. "He was not in a group going round blowing up buildings in London or Paris, or here either. He was helping the Contras by what he was doing. Now I thought the Contras were a revolutionary movement trying to overthrow the Government of Nicaragua. I did not know they were terrorists."

The former Attorney-General declined to offer an opinion as to what Mr. Hasenfus might have been charged with in the United States had he been caught delivering guns to a group trying to overthrow the US Government.



Mr Eugene Hasenfus, the lone survivor of the cargo plane shot down over Nicaragua last month, looking downcast as he surveys arms allegedly recovered from the crashed plane.

UN tells Reagan to end rebel aid

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

The United States stood in near isolation over its Central America policy as the United Nations General Assembly adopted a measure urging the Reagan Administration to abandon its support of the Nicaraguan Contra rebels in keeping with a June directive issued by the World Court.

Despite intense American lobbying, half of its Nato allies broke with the US in the voting, in what was seen as a sign of growing concern that the stage is being set for a possible military confrontation following the Reagan Administration's decision to introduce advanced fighter planes into Central America in an attempt to modernize the Honduran Air Force.

The other half of the alliance, including Britain, abstained during the voting which saw 94 countries put their weight behind Nicaragua with only Israel and El Salvador coming out unequivocally on the side of the US.

The outcome proved that Nicaragua can still count on Western support, however lukewarm, to shield it diplomatically from the US.

But the Western Allies made clear that they were deeply disillusioned with the way the Sandinista Government conducts itself and they indicated that unless Nicaragua takes steps to restore democracy and to end a policy of interference in the affairs of its neighbours, it risks a diplomatic fall from grace.

Canada, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, which were among those voting for the Nicaragua-inspired draft, said that the Sandinistas were partly to blame for the escalating tension in the region.

The vote in the Assembly followed an American veto in the Security Council last week on an almost identical resolution.

Señor Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, accused the Reagan Administration of pressurizing and blackmailing those governments in the region that disapproved of US policy but now had no other choice.

It was imperative that the judgement handed down by the International Court of Justice be followed in letter and spirit, he said, adding that the American arguments and actions against the jurisdiction of the Court were a travesty of justice.

Mr Herbert Okuma, the American delegate, said that the resolution totally ignored the situation in Central America.

"It was a totally unacceptable portrayal of the reality of Central America," he said, claiming that Nicaragua's attempt at subversion in the region could not be met by the Administration with benign neglect.

Central America braces itself for build-up of war

From Martha Honey, San José, Costa Rica

The University of Costa Rica's respected weekly *Diplomatic and Military Sources* says in a two-page report that plans are set for a US invasion of Nicaragua; only the date is uncertain.

With the arrival this week of the first US shipments of military supplies under a new \$100 million (£70.9 million) Contra aid package, Central America's five pro-Western countries are braced for a sharp build-up in the Nicaraguan conflict which could, many here say, culminate in a direct US invasion.

Over the past months, leaders of Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama have, to varying degrees, made known their uneasiness about the impact of the Contra aid package and the official restoration of day-to-day CIA management of the five-year-old war against the leftist Sandinista Government.

They won a small victory by convincing the Reagan Administration to train several hundred Contra officers inside "the continental United States" and not in Central America as had been planned.

Several weeks ago, a furor erupted when a Panamanian legislator announced, apparently incorrectly, that clandestine training of Contra troops was already underway at the US Southern Command outside Panama City.

The US allies in Central America all face rising public fears that the widening Contra war will engulf the entire region.

In El Salvador, where the Government contends it does not provide support to the Contras, relations with the US have been strained after revelations by the captured US airman Eugene Hasenfus.

He said he was an adviser to the Salvadoran military and was part of an elaborate Contra supply network operating secretly out of a Salvadoran military airfield.

In Tegucigalpa, several hundred coffee growers chanting "Yankee garbage leave Honduras", demonstrated outside the National Assembly last week to demand the expulsion of Contra and US military forces.

They presented a petition claiming that 17,000 Contras from the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the largest Contra army which operates out of Honduras, have annexed a portion of the border region there and established a "new Nicaragua".

The official response was that "not one square inch" of territory will be used by the Contras, but the Government has not taken concrete steps to expel them. Contra leaders say they plan to expand FDN forces to 20,000 over the coming months.

In addition, US and Honduran military sources say that several Honduran islands will be used for storing and shipping the Contra supplies and as staging areas for airborne attacks against Nicaraguan Pacific coast targets.

In contrast with Honduras, the Costa Rican Government has arrested and expelled armed Contras, seized caches of arms, tried captured mercenaries, and closed clandestine rebel airstrips and hospitals.

But Contra officials say "top priority" will be given to expanding their "southern front", which operates along the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border.

All these pro-Western countries walk a tightrope, not wanting to antagonize the US which is their greatest source of economic and military assistance. "We can stand up to the Reagan Administration only as long as they don't start cutting our aid package," said one high-ranking Costa Rican official.

Leaders of these five countries say they prefer a negotiated settlement to a wider war in Nicaragua. The Guatemalan Foreign Minister, Señor Mario Quirós, recently visited the other countries in an effort to revive the stale-mated Contadora peace talks by which Latin American countries have sought agreement on a written accord to end the Nicaraguan war.

But his tour was overshadowed by the successive visits of the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, and Assistant Secretary of State, Mr Elliott Abrams, and Mr Michael Armacost.

They are said to have promised their worried allies increased assistance in return for co-operation with the Contra case. This includes \$300 million in aid to the Central American "democracies", emergency assistance to help El Salvador recover from its earthquake, and the sale, for the first time, of F-5E jet fighters to Honduras.

Nicaragua has responded to the new Contra aid by Pentagon officials say, doubling its inventory of Soviet-supplied aircraft including acquisition of six more Mi 25 helicopter gunships. An 30 reconnaissance aircraft, more than a dozen Mi 17 troop transport helicopters, and new cargo planes.

First Lady's maid is cleared in arms case

From Mohsin AE, Washington

An attorney, Mr Henry Hudson, told the judge that new information from two Paraguayan nationals indicted with Mrs Castelo had convinced him the White House employee had been an "unwitting participant" in the ammunition purchase.

The two men who were to stand trial with Mrs Castelo, a freighter captain, Julio Cesar Razz-Acosta, and a Richmond resident, Eugenio Silva, pleaded guilty on Monday to one count of attempting to export ammunition without a licence. They face sentencing in early December.

Mrs Nancy Reagan's White House maid, Mrs Anita Castelo, has been cleared of involvement in an alleged scheme to smuggle small-arms ammunition to Paraguay.

A federal prosecutor recommended at a court in Richmond, Virginia, on Monday that the charges against her be dismissed, because there was no criminal intent. The judge did so.

Mrs Reagan was said to be happy that Mrs Castelo, aged 45, was found innocent and she was welcome to return to her old job as personal maid and wardrobe assistant.

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Sectarian riot deaths in Sind prompt calls for Junejo resignation

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

Opposition leaders in Pakistan are demanding the resignation of the Prime Minister, Mr. Muhammad Khan Junejo, and his Government over disturbances in Sind, which have left at least 30 people dead.

Although Mr. Junejo alleges a foreign hand behind the unrest, the Opposition blames the Government for failing to maintain calm in the country.

The Prime Minister did not identify which "foreign hand" he was referring to, but a right-wing member of the upper house of the Pakistan Parliament, Mr. Qazi Hussain Ahmad, alleged that 20 Indian soldiers had been arrested recently in Sind.

However, a Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman denied any knowledge of Indian involvement in the troubles.

Several opposition leaders of liberal or left-wing leanings, allege that Government agents were behind the sectarian riots in Quetta, Hyderabad and Karachi.

They accuse the Government of conducting a policy to further curb political opposition, with an ultimate aim of imposing authoritarian rule, so its close military and political associations with the United States on the pretext of the Afghanistan crisis.

The present state of riots and disturbances are possibly the worst in Pakistan since the anti-Government disturbances in 1977, which ended in the military overthrow of the late Prime Minister, Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Mr. Junejo, who became Prime Minister early in 1985, after eight-and-a-half years of martial law, now faces the biggest challenge to his authority in his 20-month-old rule.

In addition to opposition over the Government's handling of the disturbances, his own ruling parliamentary party is showing signs of splits both at central Government level and out in the provinces.

Last week Mr. Junejo sacked his Commerce Minister, Mr. Mohyiddin Baluch, whom he held responsible for alleged corruption relating to cotton exports in the Export Promotion Bureau. He also replaced the Attorney-General.

Mr. Baluch, however, refused to quit the Government and has asked President Zia ul-Haq to intercede on his behalf with Mr. Junejo.



Mr. Jimmy Carter, the former American President, and his wife Rosalynn at the Khyber Pass in Pakistan yesterday.

US Navy returns to Chinese waters

From Robert Grieser, Peking

Three ships from the US Navy's Pacific Fleet will tie up at the east coast port of Qingdao today, the first time since 1949 that American warships have plied China's coastal waters.

The American Ambassador, Mr. Winston Lord, Admiral James Lyons, the Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet and 20 other American officials will be on hand for the goodwill visit.

The visiting ships are USS Reeves, a Leahy-class guided-missile cruiser, USS Oldendorf, a Spruance-class destroyer, and USS Rentz, an Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate.

US officials have said that negotiations for the six-day visit were smoothed earlier this year by the visit of three Royal Navy warships to Shanghai. Last year an American Navy port call at Shanghai was postponed when a controversy arose over whether the ships were carrying nuclear weapons.

But the Chinese find it in their interests to be able to look over American and British naval hardware, particularly since they are anxious to build up their own Navy, which is the least developed of the People's Liberation Army services.

Sydney judge hears ex-spy's demand for MI5 documents

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

The British Government was handling its attempt to suppress a manuscript on MI5 operations like a card player who reshuffles the pack time and again in an attempt to produce a winning hand, the New South Wales Supreme Court was told yesterday.

It was puzzling why the Government had sought an injunction in the first place against the memoirs of Mr. Peter Wright, a former MI5 mole-hunter, when it had allowed publication of books by Chapman Pincher and Nigel West which covered similar ground. Mr. Malcolm Turnbull, counsel for Mr. Wright and the Australian Heinemann Publishing Company, said.

Mr. Turnbull was arguing before Mr. Justice Powell that the Government should disclose documents relating to matters raised by the case, or alternatively have its pending application for an injunction dismissed.

The Government, in issuing a reply yesterday to a written submission which was not made public that most of the requested documents should not be made available.

Hearing of the injunction case is scheduled to start on November 17. Yesterday's proceedings were a continuation of legal manoeuvres and arguments.

Mr. Wright was the mole-hunter who interrogated Sir Roger Hollis, the former head of MI5, when he was under suspicion. He has gone on record as saying that Sir Roger was a Soviet agent.

Through counsel, Mr. Wright has requested briefings and other documents relating to Mrs. Thatcher's statement to the Commons in 1981 that Sir Roger was not a traitor.

Mr. Turnbull said yesterday he also sought documents concerning the publication of a Nigel West book, *A Matter of Trust, MI5 1945-72*, which he said had effectively been written by former officers of MI5, and books by Chapman Pincher.

If the Government was saying that former MI5 officers could not publish books, irrespective of whether their contents were already in the public domain or not, it was relevant for the defendants to know the circumstances in which other books had been allowed to go ahead, he said.

Much of yesterday's proceedings was taken up by legal debate and submissions, prompting Mr. Justice Powell to remark: "It's like the maze at Hampton Court." The hearing continues today.

Clash toll in cities rises to 43

Karachi (Reuters) — At least 43 people have been killed in four days of rioting by rival ethnic groups in the Pakistani cities of Karachi and Hyderabad, hospital doctors said yesterday.

Police said they had reports of at least five bomb blasts in Karachi since rioting broke out last Friday. The unrest has rumbled on despite a curfew over most of the two cities enforced by troops.

Mohajirs, who make up almost one-third of the population of Karachi, have been campaigning for an end to what they say are discriminatory employment policies favouring other communities, especially the Punjabis and the Pathans.

The riots began when a Mohajir procession passed through a predominantly Pathan area on the outskirts of Karachi on the way to a rally in Hyderabad, 110 miles to the east.

India protests over Karachi Awacs

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The winter session of the Indian Parliament opened yesterday with a storm of protests from members of the Upper House against the US decision to supply Awacs surveillance planes to neighbouring Pakistan.

The new Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Natwar Singh, defending his Ministry for the first time as a politician — though he was previously a prominent diplomat — said that India does not "intend to sit quietly while Pakistan is given an additional technical superiority."

He said India's ambassador had been given instructions to express at the highest levels his country's concern "in the strongest possible terms."

But this did not satisfy members. Mr. Suresh Kalmady said: "The Government reply, I am sorry to say, is very mild." He added that unless they could do better, it would mark a "total failure of Indian diplomacy."

Despite a recent declaration that relations with America are improving, the Minister agreed that the equipping of Pakistan with Awacs would mean that "inevitably it will have an adverse effect on our relations with the United States."

Aquino 'on right track'

Cardinal backs Manila talks with Communists

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Cardinal Jaime Sin, the Philippines' most influential church leader, yesterday said that President Aquino was "on the right track" in negotiating a peaceful end to the 17-year-long communist insurgency.

His endorsement came as a civilian-military panel refined the Government's response to the rebels' 100-day ceasefire offer. A key member of the panel, a former member of the

of Manila, said at his monthly news conference at his sprawling suburban villa.

Asked why the 23,000-strong New People's Army — born during the 20-year Marcos regime — continues to fight eight months after Mrs. Aquino took power, the outspoken churchman compared the insurgency to a severed lizard's tail which continues to wriggle until it finally lies still.

Cardinal Sin described the new draft constitution as "perfect and beautiful" and said church workers would actively endorse its ratification in a plebiscite on February 2. Local government and congressional elections will follow in May.

"I think the present Government is (heading) in the right direction and... it won't be long when, after the elections and the ratification of the constitution, the people will realise that we are on the right track," he said.

Rebel deaths: At least 58 communist rebels have died in a five-day military offensive against a guerrilla base driven from its remote jungle camp by army troops backed by helicopter gunships and fighter planes, the state-run Philippine News Agency (PNA) has reported.

The agency said 30 rebels of the New People's Army were killed on Monday, including 17 guerrillas holed up inside a mountain tunnel which collapsed during an airstrike.

Soldiers on a routine patrol in the hinterland of Lanao del Norte Province stumbled on a rebel camp on Friday.

In the first exchange of fire two soldiers died before three helicopter gunships and a fighter plane strafed the camp, killing 20 rebels and forcing the others to flee, PNA said.

At least 500 residents have fled the fighting, among the most intense since President Aquino took power.

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Secret deals hold the key to release of Beirut captives

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THE ARTS

A living in death

Consider this: in Mecklenburg, Virginia, there lives a man who has killed four people in as many years. His victims' bodies were never found. He had their heads and legs shaved, his victims were strapped to a wooden chair and after two 55-second jolts of electric current.

The killer's name is Sergeant Dye (which he cannot, of course, keep), and he resembles a rather lugubrious necktie of ample girth (he probably could help this bit). The fact that he has now killed four people than have the individual condemned murderer, whom he periodically executes, might lead the viewers to imagine judicial execution in terms of conkers, cumulative eye-for-an-eye.

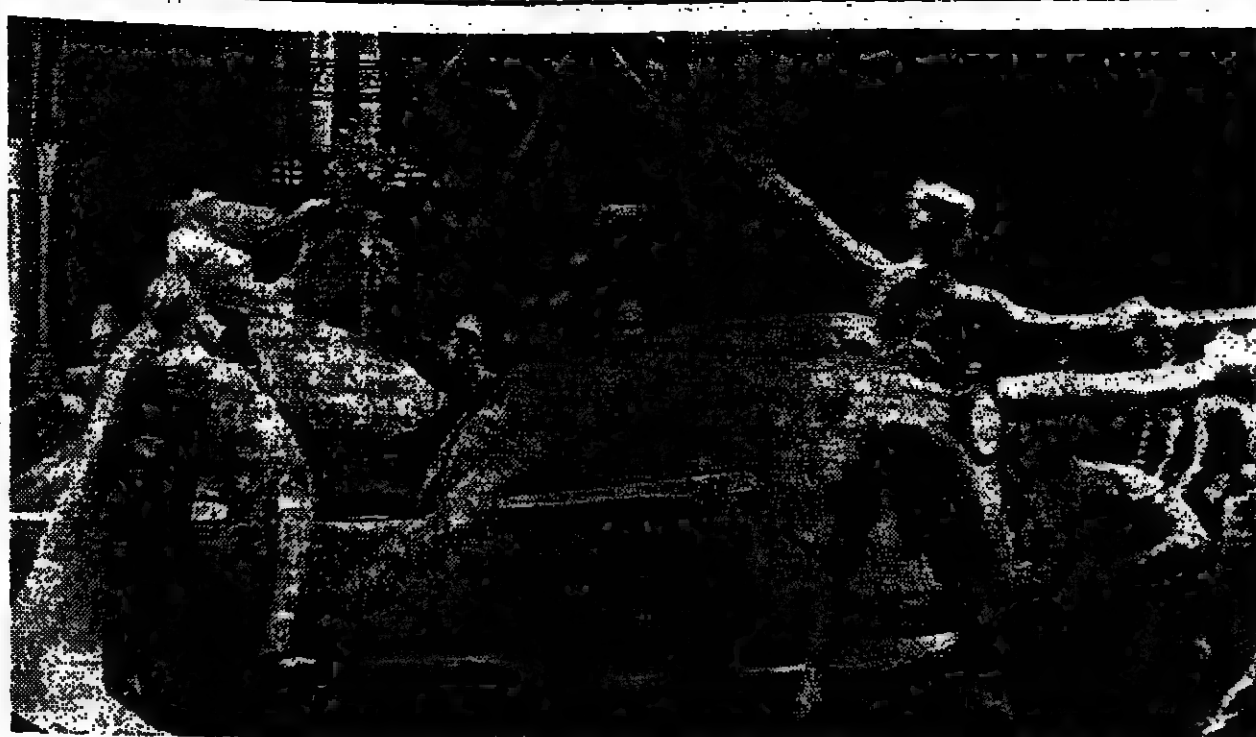
In the studiously midwestern first Tuesday (TV), the fall program displayed the grisly hardware of his occasional mad: the four-lined restraining straps, the Pichelhaube helmet, the velvet-lined execution chair, devoid of buttons for the attendant doctor should turn his fingers. We are further informed that the more corpulent of his clients and set those who are watching off their portraits with ease.

TELEVISION

The electric chair is a regularly barbaric mode of execution, but it might be thought no more cruel and painful a punishment than being a prisoner on Death Row, often for years on end, while the "line process" of speaks lingers on outside. He condemned of Mecklenburg evoked the expected ministration of stoicism and expended effort: they consulted their crimes in some last past and now, understandably, cultivate an unshakable faith in the hereafter. We inside Death-one of my use advisers, announced as of their number, as though a whole life had led up to at lapidary instant.

The programme might have been more biographical information about the extraordinary "paralegal" who has been on her knees to cajole turnkeys into representing the condemned in the absence of legal funds - as it might also have detailed the atrocity of their crimes. The only explicit justice was supplied by the cleaning racist whoops that, dramatically, salutes each execution.

Martin Cropper



Cinderella (Sylvie Guillem) makes her way to the studio by open-topped car

John Percival reports on Nureyev's new *Cinderella* in Paris

All the fun of a musical

The intention of Rudolf Nureyev and his designer, Petrika Ionesco, to set their production of the Prokofiev *Cinderella* in the Hollywood of the Thirties sounded, before the event, capricious and even silly. But when you see it on the stage of the Paris Opéra, their point becomes clear. Where else but in that dreamland does a girl whose beauty and talent have been neglected stand a chance of finding fame, fortune and happiness overnight?

The transposition proves to inflict no mayhem on the music. Nureyev uses the complete score (including the scene omitted from Ashton's Covent Garden production) with just one small change in running-order at the beginning of Act II. The music is some of the best Prokofiev ever wrote for ballet, and Marius Constant, conducting, brings its romantic and bizarre elements to good balance.

The production goes for spectacle in a big way. The film studio where Act II takes place is a vast Babylonian skyscraper, and when first seen from a distance there is a whole row of outsize Betty Grable cut-outs to point the way. Cinderella makes the journey in a big red open-topped car and at her arrival is surrounded by photographers whose flash-bulbs illuminate her progress. Inside, there is room for three film sets to be seen at once, allowing jokes about Buster Keaton, King Kong and costume dramas, and when those are cleared, in the twinkling of an eye, the space left for dancing (backed by a splendid staircase) would allow even Busby Berkeley to let himself go.

Instead of a ball, Cinderella goes to an audition and rehearsal where she gets the starring role for pretty but spiteful stepsisters have been trying for. She also gets the devastatingly handsome young leading man of the film, a character

treated with the deference due to a Valentino (is this Nureyev's reply to the iniquities of Ken Russell's film?). The other big change in the story is that the place of the fairy godmother is taken by a film producer whom Cinderella helps when, travelling incognito in search of talent, he has a cycling accident. Michael Denard plays him with debonair charm, brings about some instant before-your-eyes transformations of Cinderella's apparel and is discreetly but constantly at hand to ensure her success.

Nureyev also introduces a glamorous stepmother (a deliciously wicked drag performance by Georges Fleta, points shoes and all) to complement the antics of Cinderella's stepsisters, played with relish by two of the company's most gifted ballerinas, Isabelle Guérin and Monique Loudières. Although they lose no chance of burlesque fun, they never go too far over the top. Consequently there is little likelihood of the comic aspects eclipsing the main story, as has sometimes happened elsewhere.

Nureyev has in fact followed Prokofiev's wish to concentrate above all on the love-story, and to that end he devotes the whole of the last scene (once Cinderella has signed her contract) to giving her and her heart-throb leading man another duet. Whether or not they live happily ever after, they are last seen with her in his arms while a wind-machine sends an enormous length of tulle fluttering across the stage.

When it comes to the big set pieces, nobody would expect Nureyev to outshine Ashton in the composition of the duets - although as indicated he scores by allowing himself more scope. His poses for the men are far more exciting than Ashton's, partly because his temperament, partly because he has stronger

male dancers at his disposal, and more of them, than Ashton ever enjoyed. Also, like Ashton, Nureyev knows how to use a big corps de ballet, and the ensembles again benefit from the exceptional quality of the Paris company all through its ranks. The choreography throughout shows Nureyev having the confidence to write more simply and directly than in the past, which brings benefits both in expressiveness and in the brilliance with which his cast can perform his steps.

There will be two or three casts in all the main roles. Sylvie Guillem, one of the youngest ballerinas, was the choice for Cinderella on the opening night. Her ability to fill the stage with glamour was never in doubt; what was a surprise was to find her so adept a comedienne, with a wry, sly timing especially in her Chaplinesque mime and the dances she performs, emulating Astaire, with a hat-stand and a broom.

Charles Jude, happily right back on form after recent injuries, was the fitful gambolling smoothly through solos with steps quite as blood-curdingly difficult as anything the Bolshoi showed, but done here with a throwaway grace. He looks stunning, too, in the elaborately informal waistcoat and tights decorated to simulate jodhpurs which are among the best of many handsome costumes by the Japanese couturier Hanji Mori.

The great virtue of this *Cinderella*, in addition to its wit and its spectacle, is that it rescues the ballet from the limbo of Christmas pantomime and turns it into a modern fairy-tale for all seasons. I imagine, incidentally, that it could easily sustain a straight run in a West End or a Broadway theatre, being far more entertaining than most musicals, but who could afford to present a show with so splendid a cast?

The production is in repertory until November 12, with a further run scheduled for next June and July.

The people to watch

Tons of Money, which opens at the Lyttelton tomorrow, surprisingly marks the London debut of Alan Ayckbourn (right) in directing work other than his own: interview by Andrew Hislop



Alan Ayckbourn is a great audience-watcher during the performances of his plays. This celebrated master-craftsman, ever inventive of ingenious theatrical techniques to explore the comic middle and suppressed horror of middle-class life, is never short of people to look at. Translated into 24 languages, his plays are probably watched by more people in the world than those of any other living dramatist. Success, though, does not turn his head when it comes to focusing on the reactions of a paying customer. On the opening night of his first West End success, *Relatively Speaking*, he became completely obsessed with the failure of the large woman eating sweets next to him to show any response to the play, despite the riotous acclaim around her. It was only after the final curtain had been lowered that he discovered she was Spanish.

For well over 20 years, however, Ayckbourn's critical gaze at his public - mainly adoring and guffawing, but also occasionally puzzled and disturbed - has been predominantly in Scarborough, first as apprentice, then as successor to his theatrical mentor, Stephen Joseph. Joseph was a champion of theatre-in-the-round, which makes performers more aware of the audience, and Ayckbourn often watches them on the monitors in the Stephen Joseph Theatre-in-the-Round while they clamber over the set during the intervals.

The good players of Scarborough, however, now have a temporary reprieve from the keen Ayckbourn eye, for their adopted theatrical son has taken a sabbatical from his unpaid job as director of production to direct three plays at the National Theatre: a new play of his own, *A Small Family Business*, next year at the Olivier, Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge* at the Cottesloe and, opening tomorrow at the Lyttelton, a revival of the first of the celebrated Aldwych farces, *Tons of Money*.

He has chosen the programme not only to offer a full range of drama from the tragic to the lightest comedy, with his own play in the middle, but also to fit the theatres. He used to think good drama could be done anywhere, but now believes "the right space is essential for the right play".

His own play is the result of his obsession with the problem of mastering the vast Olivier - "the most infuriating theatre and the most interesting".

Ayckbourn has, of course, directed plays of his own at the National, most successfully perhaps the much-acclaimed *A Chorus of Disapproval* - but only after first trying them out at Scarborough. Despite all his experience, *Tons of Money* brings his London debut directing other people's work. At least it is his debut directing some of other people's work - for he has given the play, originally written by Will Evans and Valentine but also tinkered with by a number of others, including Yvonne Arnaud, "a pretty big face-lift job". (Gone for instance are lines, intended for Arnaud, which only make sense in a French accent.)

Wisely, Ayckbourn has approached the problems of working in such a leviathan of a theatre as the National by trying to re-create some of the intimacy of Scarborough. He has his own company of 20, including many stalwarts of past Ayckbourn productions in both Scarborough and London and his own small stage crew. He has tried to keep things simple - "so I can do what I think I do best, which is to make companies". Stephen Joseph had once told him, in a throwaway manner, "just create an atmosphere in which the actors can create".

Creating that atmosphere, according to Ayckbourn, is "the most difficult thing in the world", but he is obviously good at it. Large, jovially rounded but very quick in mind, easygoing yet with the thinly veiled competitive spirit of the keen English amateur sportsman - appropriately, he keeps wicket - Ayckbourn is able both to get the best out of a company in short, intensive rehearsals and to make sure they have great fun in the process too. It also helps that he is thoroughly experienced in every aspect of

the theatre, including acting. He once was even directed by Pinter as Stanley in *The Birthday Party*, fresh from its famous mauling by the London critics. "I was lifted by a director with his brain on fire determined to make a point," He admits, however, that he would never have been asked to join the National as an actor.

Ayckbourn comes to the National at the summit of his career. The security of his Scarborough nest has enabled him to continue his work remarkably unaffected by those who have overpraised him, comparing him to Shakespeare, and those who have unjustly reviled him, regarding him as a vacuous, right-wing boulevardier. His recent West End success, *Woman in Mind*, shows that his great talents as well as his limitations thrive unabated despite attempts by some to see him as a writer politically subversive of middle-class values as he is of theatrical convention. Only Broadway remains unconquered by his refusal to confine himself either to the theatrical shallows or depths.

He does, however, reveal a comforting vulnerability about his move to the National. Though Sir Peter Hall was prepared to allow him, as is his wont at Scarborough, to write *A Small Family Business* at the last moment, he produced it a year in advance. Since it was the first play for years he had to submit to an artistic director other than himself, he was overcome by anxiety when there was no immediate response. He sent another copy to Michael Gambon, who is to star in it. Still no reaction. In desperation he sent it to his mother for approval. Perhaps this need for approval explains why he is so keen on observing audiences. Whether *Tons of Money* is met by rapturous acclaim or Spanish sweat-rusting on its opening night, its director will be keenly watching the performances off as well as on stage.

THEATRE

A Dream Play

King's Head

Just "do" *A Dream Play*, it demands a creative director. At the King's Head, it is directed by the Swedish-born Karina Micallef as the first of a series of European productions by the Tell-Tale Theatre Company. There is room for such a company, but their future work will have to be better than this show, which walks innocently into a loaded trap.

The first rule in dream narrative is that every event and every location must be presented with unambiguous clarity. Scenes may dissolve, characters double or multiply, but the process must be properly articulated. Miss Micallef's company, however, go simply for the fluidity of dream: rushing on with a hasty costume-change and launching into the next scenic

fragment without first defining the nature of the transition. As a result, the ironies, pain and the sense of an all-pervading intelligence are missing, and the narrative subsides into a jumbled blur.

Bergman once confessed to finding parts of the play "sentimental and over-the-top". He took good care to minimize those qualities in his own version. Here, they dominate the evening. The style fatally combines the grotesque with impressionism, so that characterization all too often consists of generalized grimaces and frowns, backed up with a menacing chorus going through the hissing routine. Thus, instead of viewing the sadness of human life at long range, with passing glimpses of wasted emotion and mutual torment, the performance offers a gallery of fools and aggressors inviting you to pass judgement on them as individuals.

Periodically, the scenes are interrupted by John Jansson's score; which may indeed be based on Swedish folk-tunes but which prompts the company into precarious and uncharacteristic dances redolent of a drama school's end-of-term show demonstrating the cast's versatility. Equally inexpressive are the passages of robot pantomime which blot out the meaning of the lines and tear into the dramatic texture as intrusive numbers sending the dream up in smoke.

I am sorry to greet an adventurous group in these terms. The accompanying Swedish dinner is well up to the standards of the house.

Irving Wardle

Dirty Dishes

Boulevard

Wedged between the meretricious splendours of Walker's Court, Soho, and sharing amenities with the Raymond Revuebar, this brave swish venue offers better value for money than many a "legitimate" West End theatre. Nick Whitty's previous play attracted a favourable notice from my predecessor, the late Anthony Masters; this, his first commercial venture, shows that he is possessed of a good pair of ears as well as some good material. As to structure and development, he has some way to go yet.

The action develops entirely in the kitchen of a London pizzeria, epistemically named, where a clutch of illegal immigrants and associated misfits are doing what they can to ease the pain of tough work and lousy wages.

Edgar, a shamelessly goofy Argentine (Cliff Parisi), is launched on an heroic, day-long drags binge. Carlos (Guy Moore) is a Brazilian lawyer, alternately feeding his sympathetic habit and sounding off about capitalist exploitation; sharing a joint of grass in the staff lavatory with Edgar, he improves the latter's English by having him repeat the

sentence "Demond Lynam wears a moustache". Later, he will howl "I'm frustrated!" - my whole life is frustrating!" which I think is a delicious line. There are, in addition, a restless American actress, another South American who spits in the chili, a blank French girl in love with Carlos, and a garrulous and obscure Englishwoman.

The dirt that is dished to these lost souls comes from the swelling swine of a manager (Oily Parker), who is, unfortunately, the one incredible character of the piece. In his manipulative callousness there rises the horrible suspicion that the author is set to make a point rather than simply wind his creative up and let them go - a suspicion confirmed in the closing, macabre scene which draws together the surreal threads of the piece without tying a satisfying knot. Mr Parker also plays the manager's more whimsical brother, an egregious theatrical device which has not been thoroughly thought out.

Tim Whitty's production is robustly cast and vigorously executed. It makes a pleasant change to see a young audience responding genuinely (at the risk of sounding patronising) to a young play.

Martin Cropper

Young Writers

Theatre Upstairs

Hopes for the future of dramatic writing in a video age are given a boost by this year's Royal Court Young Writers' Festival. Three authors, ranging in age between 16 and 20, three different concerns, and widely differing styles; achievements in each that focus on contemporary preoccupations and crimes.

The *Playme Year*, a short play by Theresa Heskins, is set in London 300 years ago, but humankind's resistance to the notion of pestilence is passionately up to date. Characters are simply indicated and their development is restricted by the snap conclusion, but the revelation of private beliefs through spoken prayer is effective.

Two minutes of deft scene-changing and we are in the cartoon-coloured world of Shaun Duggan's *William*. The gangling 17-year-old hero dreams of fame and flight from Merseyside, where Dad (Ian Redford) is barnacled to the television set. Mum (Linda Henry) buries prayers

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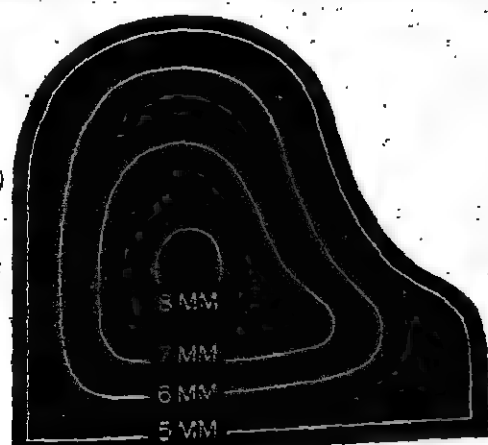
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SPECTRUM

Love in a chilling climate

The Government's prescription for stopping the spread of Aids is a dramatic alteration in sexual behaviour. But a tour of London's West End clubs persuaded Jill Sherman and Michael Dynes that undoing 20 years of sexual permissiveness will not be easy

The Aids epidemic is now a national crisis. Anthony Newton, Minister for Health, warned this week that, with the number of Aids cases doubling every 10 months, urgent action is required. The only way to stop the spread of the disease, he said, was for people to change their sexual behaviour.

A national television advertising campaign to get that message across will top the agenda at a meeting this week of the newly-formed Cabinet committee set up to deal with the Aids epidemic. The same message will be repeated by politicians, doctors and other health experts for the foreseeable future.

But how effective will it be? Our interviews with young men and women reveal an alarming ignorance about the risks of Aids. To them the infection is still an irrelevance, a "gay" disease or a bad joke. Few people seem impressed by the Government's publicity campaign so far.

Since March about £2 million has been spent on newspaper advertisements that have sought to increase awareness of the disease and its risks. They seem to have had little impact. Much more will soon be spent, the messages will become more explicit, the

warnings more emphatic. The evidence that the disease is some cases can be passed through normal sexual intercourse has only just begun to challenge popular prejudices. The crisis has still to be taken seriously. Most people cling to the belief that Aids can't and won't happen to them.

Advice that essentially calls for a new code of chastity may thus be ignored or dismissed as a "killjoy" tactic among a population long used to carefree sex and unable or unwilling to visualize the future. Meanwhile many experts believe that, in terms of the progress of the disease, we are already living in the past.

"The truth is that the people who are dying of Aids today became infected five years ago," says Dr Jonathan Weber, a leading researcher in London. "Somehow we have to accept the reality that since then another 30,000 or more have become infected, and that in five years from now, there will be perhaps 4,000 people in Britain with Aids, and that there is nothing at all we can do to stop those cases occurring."

"All we can hope to do is prevent more cases. We can't do that medically. It can only be done by changes in sexual behaviour."



you? Most people would just take the risk."

For some people, the one-night stand is already a thing of the past. Ron, a 34-year-old London taxi driver, married with a son aged 16, has radically changed his sexual behaviour for fear of passing the disease onto his wife.

"I used to sleep around all the time, a different girl almost every night, lots of money in my pocket - you know. But I've had VD in the past so I know how easily these things can be picked up on those one-off occasions. A lot of my friends still regard Aids as a gay plague. They don't realize that the chances of them catching it are increasing all the time. I for one have no intention of playing the field any more."

Despite all the talk about the arrival of the new chastity, younger people were not prepared to accept the idea. Jackie, aged 25, a hairdresser who is married with a young daughter, was convinced that most people would carry on having extra-marital affairs. "There's a lot of people who are married who can't stick to one partner. They have just got to have some one else, otherwise they think they're missing out on something."

Yet most people said that if they contracted Aids, the last thing they would do is infect anyone else. Brid, aged 26, an actress, was convinced that men would be more irresponsible than women when it came to passing on the disease. "If I had Aids, I would try to find a partner who had it as well. But most men probably wouldn't. When men get the urge, they've just got to go for it. But women are normally more in control of their emotions."

Where they went wrong

The young people in our survey betrayed an alarming degree of ignorance about Aids. Dr Thomas Stuttard puts them right

Initially homosexuals, drug addicts, haemophilic patients, and prostitutes were the main sufferers from Aids, and an impression was given that other people should not be too concerned. That is nonsense.

The virus is spread by heterosexual intercourse, as well as homosexual intercourse, by the mouth as well as through other orifices. The virus is carried in blood, semen, vaginal and cervical secretions; it is also present in smaller amounts in tears and saliva, though probably not in a high enough quantity to be infectious.

Aids is not a single disease, but a collection of pathological conditions to which the body is prone after its defences against infections and malignant diseases have been destroyed by the HIV (HTLV-3) virus. Perhaps in an attempt to alleviate alarm, the hazard posed to the community by the HIV virus has been played down.

Initially it was hoped that only about 10 per cent of those infected with HIV would develop Aids, but that has proved to be an absurdly optimistic forecast; five-year studies have shown that as many as 30 per cent of those infected may have developed Aids, and there exists the fear that in time most of the rest may succumb. Even without developing the full Aids syndrome many patients have signs of general involvement and show early dementia.

All patients who have been infected with HIV, whatever their present state of health, are infectious. Aids can manifest itself in a variety of ways. The most common presenting complaint is pneumonia due to *Pneumocystis carinii*. The second most likely initial symptom is Kaposi's sarcoma. Cancer of the lymphatic system, intractable diarrhoea, weight loss, mental changes may all be the first signs or symptoms that Aids is developing.

David, with his cheery optimism in Larry's Bar, could not be more mistaken. A clear chest X-ray is no certainty that he has not been infected. Only a blood test will give him complete confidence that he has not been exposed to the HIV virus, and only by avoiding casual sex, or if he is unable to do this, by using a condom, will he be safe, or relatively safe, from the virus.

If these precautions are followed, Aids may not be too terrifying and he can reassure himself that it is less infectious than syphilis. A careful sex life in the days when that disease was rampant provided complete protection.

I suppose if you had a one-night stand the girl may have slept with a haemophilic, or a drug addict. But I don't think you would consciously worry about catching Aids. You might think about it afterwards, but I think if it crosses your mind at all, you judge the risk by the social status of the girl you're with."

Nick, a 25-year-old market-maker in the City, was not the least concerned about Aids. Proping up the bar at the fashionable Soho Brasserie, gin and tonic in hand, he said he was not promiscuous and presumed his girlfriend of three months' standing was not either.

Nick's relaxed if not complacent attitude seems to be typical of his age group. With only a few exceptions, the young heterosexuals we talked to seem startlingly unaware of their vulnerability. They were reluctant to practise safer sex or change their promiscuous life-styles.

While most young people know that the Aids virus can be sexually transmitted, many are convinced it is still a homosexual disease which poses no threat to their own lifestyle. Aids specialists, however, now agree that the disease can be passed through body fluids such as blood, semen and vaginal secretions. Women can pass it on as easily as men like most other sexually transmitted diseases.

Andrew, 23, an unemployed musician imbibing at the bar of the Criterion restaurant in Piccadilly, claimed that all he knew about Aids had been learnt from friends. He never read newspapers or watched television. "As far as I know it is transmitted by anal intercourse and through blood. So I wouldn't really be worried about having a heterosexual relationship."

Half-way through his McDonald's hamburger in Charing Cross Road, Greg, an 18-year-old cabinet maker from Scotland, thought his homeland would help him. "Scotland's not as bad as London. We've only got about 40 people with Aids. It's all blown out of proportion. It's just like herpes."

Crouched over his vodka and orange at Larry's Bar off the New King's Road, David, aged 19, an art student, believed it was transmitted through sex, blood and "prolonged" kissing. "There was an Aids scare at college, about overseas students," he said, "and everyone was supposed to have a chest X-ray which shows it up."

Others conveniently excluded themselves from the vulnerable categories. "I don't consider myself in a high-risk group," said Graham, 21, a labourer on a building site. "Drug addicts and homosexuals, they're the only ones that get it. I haven't heard of any women passing it on to men."

John, 20, a hotel worker, was sceptical: "When a bloke and a woman are together, nothing passes from the woman to the man does it? So you can't get it from a woman."

Many young people have not even discussed Aids with their friends - or if they have, the subject is not taken seriously. At a popular bar in Soho, Marielle, 24, working in the travel trade said, "We usually joke about it. The subject does come up but friends say 'Oh... have you got Aids?', nudge, nudge..."

People in long-term relationships felt the problem did not concern them at the moment, and were reluctant to think how it would affect them once their affair had finished. Some, however, were very scared, conscious that they might easily be victims of the disease already, whether or not they led a promiscuous life.

Kay, 26, working for a film company, said she was so frightened about having Aids that she and the rest of her office were going to donate blood so that they could be tested for the virus. "I saw the programme on TV. We've all been talking about it. It's certainly made me more aware about how easy it is to catch it."

Sonya, 26, producer of a pop programme, predicted that Aids would destroy civilization. "It will always be at the back of your mind. There could be masses of people wandering around with the disease now. It's all very well telling them what to do but it may be too late. A voluntary screening system should be set up so that anyone could have their blood tested. People could then carry

'Homosexuals and drug addicts, they're the only ones that get it. I'm not worried about it at all'

cards to say whether they were positive or not. I would rather see a card before going to bed with someone," she said.

But most young people were not in favour of compulsory screening, which they viewed as a breach of civil liberty.

Not surprisingly, homosexuals were more aware of how Aids is contracted and how to prevent it spreading. Gary, a 27-year-old doctor, said many gay people had restrained their sexual activity but that others were still going out on the gay scene, their lives revolving around boyfriends and sex.

The hostility towards condoms, despite the protection they offer against the disease, was widespread. Indeed, some people would prefer to give up sex altogether rather than use them.

In a bar in Covent Garden, Clare, aged 22, a musician, said she would be very particular about

whom she went to bed with but said: "I wouldn't ask a bloke to wear a condom. I think they're just revolting. It's the smell. You just can't get rid of it. If they could manufacture one that didn't smell like rubber so horribly, I suppose I wouldn't mind so much. But it would still be just like having a bath with your socks on. I would rather have no sex at all than have to use condoms. They just put me off completely."

Like many people, Sonya was sceptical that two decades of permissive propaganda could be undone because of the Aids scare. "I for one wouldn't be prepared to sleep with someone who used a condom. It's not very nice. Maybe we'll just have to be re-educated."

Andrew also found the idea of using condoms completely unacceptable. "I just don't like them, so I wouldn't ever use one. I'd rather not have sex. They don't arouse me at all. I think a lot of people feel that way. It's just the fact that they're so awkward to use, and they smell disgusting."

Although reconciled to the prudence of using condoms, John was concerned about their immediate availability. "Yeah, I'd wear a condom, if I had one on me. But I can't see many people doing that, can you? I mean, when you get back to a bloke's house you're not going to say, 'hold on a tick, I'm just going to nip out to the all night chemist and get a condom', are

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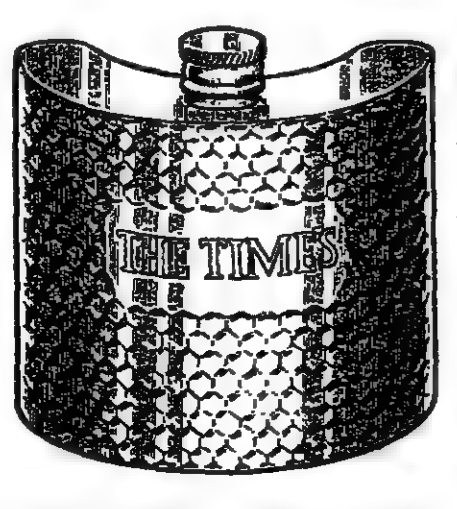
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The star-faced sleeping beauty

In the neglected village of Great Tew a remarkable clock lay unnoticed for 200 years. Now it's on offer to the nation



Heavenly: Matthew Boulton's great sidereal clock

Matthew Boulton was one of the greatest English metalworkers of the eighteenth century. At his factory outside Birmingham he produced superb ormolu, silver and Sheffield plate using designs by such great contemporaries as Robert Adam and James Wyatt. As the partner of James Watt, he was the first manufacturer of the steam engine. In 1774 he housed to Baswell: "I sell here, sir, what all the world desires to have - Power."

His many historians have assumed the clock to be lost or destroyed. But, together with his library and fascinating working drawings for various of his projects, the clock has

been slumbering in a derelict Oxfordshire village like a beautiful princess in a fairy story.

The Boulton home at Great Tew in Oxfordshire has been the epicentre of a sensational conservationist battle for the last two decades. Matthew Boulton's son, Matthew Robinson Boulton, purchased the Tew estate in 1815-16. In addition to the manor house, there are some 56 cottages and 4,500 acres of arable and woodland. The last owner, Major Eustace Robb, who died last year, was descended from the Boultons in the female line and became, in his later years, a recluse and eccentric.

Robb seems to have set his face against modern agricultural orthodoxy. He wanted, it appears, to preserve the traditional village community without allowing an influx of commuters and weekenders who would have changed the nature of the old farming estate. As villagers and farm hands died or left, their cottages fell into ruin. Many are empty, with walls crumbling and roofs falling in. The village has retained its traditional character but appears neglected compared with its smart Cotswold neighbours.

As a barrage of newspaper articles and television programmes has exposed its plight, Major Robb and his estate manager James Johnstone have come under fierce criticism. Johnstone had formerly worked in a solicitor's office and has been particularly singled out for criticism as an unqualified and hard-headed exponent of Robb's old-fashioned policies. When he drew up his will Robb ignored his family connections and left the entire estate to Johnstone.

Like any other heir, Johnstone's first problem is

capital transfer tax, formerly estate duty, and he has called in Christie's to help him solve it. Breaking through the cobwebs, their representatives have entered the house to find Matthew Boulton's effects slumbering within.

As well as offering the famous clock to the nation, they are to auction his library and a large collection of drawings on December 12 and 16 respectively. The library is a utilitarian collection, reflecting Boulton's wide interests in mathematics, mineralogy, chemistry and economy and including many books by scientists such as Joseph Black, Erasmus Darwin, Priestley, De Luc and Fourcroy. They have simple late 18th Century bindings and have Boulton's own bookplate inside.

The drawings fall into two groups. The first concern improvements made to Boulton's home, Soho House, near Birmingham, in the 1780s and 1790s by Samuel and James Wyatt as well as a local architect, William Hollins. They include elevations, plans and working drawings and provide a fascinating insight into the architect's ideas.

The second group relates to Boulton's last great achievement, his revolutionary technique for mining coinage using Watt's steam engine. The collection includes a large number of mechanical drawings for the installation of machinery in London and St Petersburg, as well as plans and elevations.

Geraldine Norman

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4 Dedicate (6)
7 Frolic (4)
8 Close examination (8)
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16 Naturally decomposable (13)
17 Affirmative answer (3)
19 Young fishes (5,3)
24 Unmarried woman (6)
25 Invent (4)
26 Token (6)
27 Trying time (6)
DOWN
1 Old sailor (4)
2 Outstandingly bad (9)
3 Ascended (5)
4 Hard wheat (5)
5 Forbid (4)
6 Circular painting (5)
10 Bowling spells (5)
11 Plant stem sheath (5)
12 Alpine call (5)
13 Morally dissolute (9)
14 Far down (4)
15 Comply with (4)
18 Void (5)
20 Hot type (5)
21 Slow, broad, musty (5)
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Married to affairs of state

The popular vision of the life of a diplomat's wife is of tall drinks on sunny verandas while the men get on with the real work. But, as a conference in London tomorrow will make clear, many sacrifice a great deal, including their own careers. Lindsay Knight reports

Whatever complaints diplomats' wives may have about their lot, they are unfailingly loyal to their husbands. "We are the most loyal group of wives," said Gay Murphy, chairman of the Diplomatic Service Wives Association.

But this loyalty is sorely tested by husbands and the Foreign Office, especially when couples are posted abroad. A move can mean a major disruption, if not a total break, in the wife's career, and she can spend so much time on embassy work that she may feel like an unpaid FCO employee.

While her loyalty may be refreshingly old-fashioned, her ambitions are not. Diplomatic wives are keen to dismiss the image, at least 20 years out of date, of the diplomat's wife swanning around the world, being looked after by armies of servants and having little to do but pose decoratively on verandas sipping gin and tonics. They have, for example, an impressive range of qualifications and work experience, as a recent DSWA questionnaire shows. Many are graduates or trained teachers, and their jobs vary from nursing to accountancy, the law to word processing, cartography to electronic engineering, metallurgy to architecture.

In 1986, most of these wives (about 2,600 throughout the world) would like to work in their own right, whatever the level of their ambitions or career. They are no longer happy with the assumption that their role is to support their husbands (and implicitly the FCO). Ways of tackling the work problem — shared by diplomatic wives from every country, not just the UK — will be high on the agenda at this week's conference of the European Community Diplomatic Spouses' Association, hosted by the UK's DSWA in London.

In recent years, considerable effort and often ingenuity have been exercised to arrange joint postings when two FCO people marry. The problems of wives with careers outside the FCO are less subtle.

One young woman spoke only of the understanding that she could remain anonymous (even to her husband): "In theory you're free to say what you think but in practice you do worry that pressure might be put on your husband to shut you up."

She is now back in London after three years abroad. "After university and then beginning to establish myself in a career in advertising, it was terrible at the age of 24 to go abroad and have to depend on my

husband for everything because I couldn't work there. When I came back, I'd obviously missed out on promotions. I keep very quiet at work about my husband's job because they think I'll be going abroad again."

For this woman, the frustrations of not working were aggravated by the expectations of her as a diplomatic wife — not only the voluntary work, but also the coffee mornings and wives' meetings. "I stopped going to these soon after we arrived and then a couple of wives came round to see me, to ask why. 'You'll get a lot of stick if you don't come,' they warned. But I didn't, even though I know my husband would have preferred me to, and I know I wasn't the most popular wife in the embassy."

Clare Oliver is a social worker who accompanied her husband to Mexico when he was seconded from his company to the Foreign Office for three years. "The psychological stresses are hard for many wives," she says. "Because they can't do what they want, women lose their sense of identity and receive their status from their husbands. Rank is very prevalent so you become the Second Secretary's Wife, for example, and there is still a big divide between junior and senior wives."

There are considerable differences between going abroad with a company and with the Foreign Office. "With a company, there is more choice about the house you live in, or how you live. The FCO allows you a house according to your status, and it's assumed you will do a lot of the entertaining for your husband. Some wives I knew in Mexico would cook dinner, serve the drinks and then disappear. I refused to allow my home to be used as a restaurant like that, but I certainly didn't have any choice about who came into my home."

Of course, many wives enjoy their life abroad but some, particularly the younger women, doubt if the benefits outweigh the disadvantages. Some are already choosing to stay in the UK when their husbands are posted abroad in order to continue their careers. The FCO admits that it is losing "good men" in their 30s because their wives put pressure on them to leave the FCO for a more settled existence.

The FCO recognizes both a wife's contribution and her dilemma. A spokesman said: "Frankly, if a wife chooses to be involved in the embassy work, it's an unpaid benefit for us."



In Her Majesty's service: Pamela Gordon and children (from left) Francesca, 6, Adam, 1, and Alexandra, 4

Pamela Gordon insists that she has no regrets about giving up her own diplomatic career to marry a diplomat. But it is clear that she has not always been so resigned to the life of a wife and mother. "I'm just learning to live with it a bit more. Perhaps I've matured as I've got older." Now in her early 30s, Pamela read law at Leicester University and then joined the Foreign Office ("the executive stream, not the high-fliers"). She met her husband-to-be Robert in her first week. "He had been to Oxford and was a high-flyer" but no decisions were made about marriage until five years later, by which time both of them had been posted abroad separately.

Pamela had served 18 months in Cuba, as Third Secretary, Political, and then went to Brussels as an attaché to the British EEC delegation. Robert called on her on route from Poland (where he had spent two years) to London, and after three days they decided to marry.

Their problem was where would they go together? She wanted to stay in her post in Brussels, and he had a post coming up in Chile as Second Secretary.

The Foreign Office said it regretted the fact, but there would be no two jobs available in Brussels or Santiago so they would have to choose. According to Pamela, the decision was obvious — "He had a much better career ahead of him than me" — so they went to Chile, the FCO having agreed to give her unpaid leave during that time.

Pamela remembers their first day in Santiago: "Our very kind predecessor and his wife showed us round

the house and made us welcome. Then he said to Robert, 'Now I'll take you home to the embassy and show you the offices'."

"I got up to go too, then realized I didn't work there. The wife showed me the local shops. It was one of the worst moments."

"I was very slow in coming to terms with the situation. It was probably worse for me than other working wives because I had worked for the Foreign Office. My husband would come home every evening and I'd feel so upset that I wouldn't want to listen to his stories about work."

'It's a matter of having a job rather than a career'

Because of her Cuban posting, Pamela spoke fluent Spanish, so she contacted several British companies in Santiago. "I was thrilled when one of them offered me a job, and I rushed along to the embassy to tell my husband, only to discover that the Chileans had stopped giving diplomatic spouses work permits. I was only 27 and I wasn't allowed to work. It was tragic at the time."

So like most diplomatic wives, Pamela "kept herself busy" and had two children in fairly quick succession, while taking on some translating and voluntary work. "That is very much expected of you as a diplomatic wife. Within a week of arriving, I was told by other wives what my predecessor had done and therefore what I should do."

"I did feel that I wanted to do the voluntary work I was interested in so I offered to help out in a soup kitchen run by the church. But someone said 'You should stick to what you diplomatic wives are good at: fund raising'."

"That was another shock to the system. I'd only been a diplomat's wife for three weeks."

After four years, which she emphasizes were often "great fun", she and her husband returned to London. She could then have gone back into the Foreign Office, but asked for part-time work because of her small children. There was none available, though, so Pamela, several years later, the FCO is now encouraging part-time work and job-sharing.

"I then had to resign and I remember thinking that if I'd trained as a solicitor, like so many of my friends, part-time work would have been no problem."

Pamela resigned and has now retrained as an EFL (English as a Foreign Language) teacher, a useful qualification for diplomatic wives working abroad. "In my position you have to be very flexible and it's a matter of having a job rather than a career."

And the future? The Gordons, now numbering five after the birth of a son in 1985, will be going abroad again next year and Pamela accepts that she may have to retrain again. As for the general problem of working wives, of which she is aware through her work on the DSWA committee, "I really don't know what the solution is. My husband has certainly been very understanding. He's had a lot to put up with."

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Teaching children to complain

Has Esther Rantzen spread her safety net for sexually abused children too wide?

At first I thought it was a reflection of my own dyspeptic nature. But as the evening wore on I became convinced that I was not the only person feeling profoundly uncomfortable with the BBC's new Childline — the free phone-in service for abused children. Esther Rantzen was suffused with caring, all right, but every time she explained her new role as the Beeb's supermum, I felt uneasy. There's a problem here, I said to myself.

It is not that I have any measure of understanding or sympathy for child abusers. Hanging's too good for them. I have always thought, as calls flooded the Childline phones, I could only wonder admiringly at Esther Rantzen's achievement. Singlehandedly, she has thrust child abuse into the popular consciousness. Still, the doubts began to nag.

Child abuse has always been a pretty clear cut business to me involving some thought of physical or sexual attack. Or extreme negligence. But Esther Rantzen had a broader view. Even the interviewer on Newsround seemed a little taken aback.

"Esther," he asked, "what range of problems are you dealing with?"

"Well, anything that troubles a child really," Esther replied. That turned out to include little girls afraid of the dark and little boys with school nerves. "I think," Esther continued, "that child abuse is anything that puts a child through pain, makes them feel uncomfortable and unhappy."

Under normal circumstances, of course, Esther Rantzen's views would concern only those close acquaintances who might be the object of her extraordinary breadth of compassion. But with the power of the state at her finger tips, Esther Rantzen's views take on a different complexion. A child's call to her Childline has consequences. It can result in state interference in the family, whether by drastic measures involving the police or by chatty social workers passing judgement on mother's sanctions for poor homework. None of us would deny the need for the state to interfere when it comes to real child abuse, but why should beleaguered parents now be under siege for a whole range of private parenting concerns?

Rantzen next turned her attention to the courtroom. What seemed to worry her here was the difficulty of getting a conviction for child abuse. She advocated certain changes to set this right, such as the new Criminal Justice Bill. That Bill proposes putting children in separate rooms with a video link to the courtroom so that they may give evidence without having

the "trauma" of facing the accused assailant in court.

Dangerous nonsense. I thought, the person accused of the crime is presumed to be innocent. By separating the child from the accused, you imply that the defendant did something very desperate and you reverse the onus of guilt, psychologically speaking. That may well improve the conviction rate — at the price of setting our traditional notion of justice on its head.

I understood the kind of world Esther Rantzen inhabited when the programme took us to a school, to show us, approvingly, the New Child. A group of them were singing a song with the chorus "My body's nobody's body but mine/you run your own body, let me run mine." I thought it was curious that we needed such a song in this age which rhapsodizes over people's rights to do with their bodies as they will regardless of the harm they cause others. Still, I let that pass.

Then an American woman named Michelle Elliot began asking the children what they would do about a bully who demanded their lunch. A sweet-faced girl said she would punch one in the face, but apparently this was the wrong answer. Another said she would run away and then tell. A lot of the children emphasized the need to tell with a very unchildlike self-satisfaction. "Excellent," said Michelle Elliot.

Well, I didn't think it was excellent at all. It reminded



Esther Rantzen: a broader view

me of the spirit of the old scientific socialist society in which films were made about brave children who stood up and told on their parents. This, I thought, is how you train a population to complain, denounce and be proud of their dependency. You plant the idea in people from early childhood that if they are afraid in the dark, or have a problem with a bully, they just telephone the state. Is there anything more destructive to the family as a unit or to its relationship to the community as having outsiders brought in willy nilly to solve matters where no laws are broken?

You see, Esther, I want to help that bruised child as much as you. It's your remedy that I fear.

Barbara Amiel

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FRIDAY
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video' scheme

BRIEFLY
A round-up of news, views and information

Chewing the fat

"Hiya Chubbychops" is hardly the kind of greeting you'd expect from a wife's spirit. But according to recent research, women are all too frequently taunted by their partners about their attempts at dieting, and made to feel that their days of being slim and desirable are behind them. This compounds the contradiction they already feel between wanting to be seen as a provider of food and maternal comfort while wishing to remain sexually attractive to their husbands. Unhappily, the researchers — Nicola Charles from Swansea University and Marion Kerr from the Department of the Environment — were forced to concede that it is surprising that food phobias among women are not even more widespread.

Tum rumbled

For the little girl who has everything: In America, Mattel, creators of the most famous doll of all time, Barbie, have launched The Heart Family New Arrival set, comprising Daddy Heart (wearing flowers and toys), newborn Baby Heart (complete with tiny blanket, birth certificate and bottle) and Mrs Heart. All sweetly realistic until you look under Mrs Heart's voluminous maternity smock, to discover a tummy as nauseatingly flat as Barbie's. It will probably be a while before the trio is featured in a

new magazine called *What Toy* (£1.50 at newsagents). Aimed at any parent or grandparent who has emerged shellshocked from a visit to a toyshop with demanding children, The National Toy Libraries Association and Play Matters have assessed thousands of toys for children from 0-11 (including some of those with disabilities), and recommended 600 toys in this useful guide.

Quote me...



"I'd rather be with children than spend my time with politicians." Glenys Kinnock.

Sound advice

Premenstrual Syndrome has been known to drive otherwise sane women to distraction, if not unhinge them, and a high proportion experience at least some symptoms. But instant advice and comfort are now just a telephone call away, thanks to The Association for Premenstrual Syndrome's HelpLine on (0483) 572806 (day), (09592) 4371 (night).

Testing time

Pinpointing the time of ovulation can be crucial to any woman trying to conceive. Until now this has usually relied on complicated temperature checking, but a new home fertility test from Tambrands (the makers of Tampax) uses the latest diagnostic techniques to

determine accurately the time a woman is most likely to fall pregnant (though they're keen to point out it should not be used for contraceptive purposes). First Response is available from chemists, price £24.90 for the first six-day pack, with a three-day refill at £12.80.

Wagon trail

Equality has its downside — including a soaring alcoholism rate among women. Keith McNeill's *How to Stay Sober* (Sheldon Press, £2.50) is an unapologetic manual detailing practical methods of giving up or reducing your alcohol intake. As a journalist who abandoned alcohol, he's well-versed in the ways to resist without embarrassment the constant pressure from other people to drink.

Pigeonholed



The Pocket Guide to Men (Chalk & Cheese, £2.50) is good, not always-clean fun full of the wit and wisdom exchanged by women "when," according to its authors, "there aren't any men around." The result is a frivolous, but well-observed little volume, stereotyping the Liberator Man, the TV Addict, the Saloon Bar Bore and so on.

Josephine Fairley

TALKBACK

From J.T. Masfield, *Sunningdale, Berkshire*

There may be some hope for at least some young people like Michelle (Mad, sad, or simply a bad case? October 23). My wife and I have a rather similar story with our son who is nearly 23. We discovered quite by accident that what was contributing to his utterly irrational episodes, and the self-destructive behaviour which was quite at variance with his previous loving nature, was some of the food he ate.

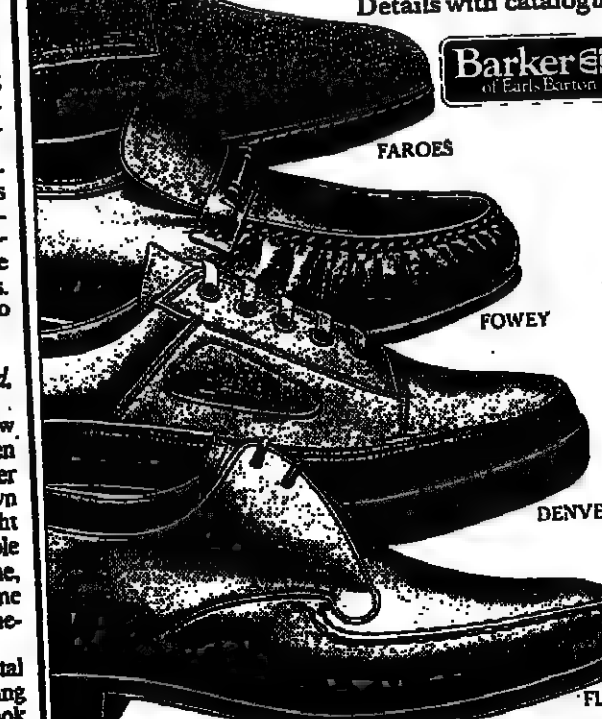
Pork, in particular, caused him to slash his forearms; he only ever did this after eating pork. He has now not eaten it for four years and he has not cut himself once.

Other reactions, characterized by psychiatrists as psychotic behaviour, schizoid withdrawal and alcoholism, also followed the ingestion of specific foods. He too became a menace to himself and others.

My GP and local hospital had no idea what was causing all these problems, so I took her to an allergy clinic. Following an elimination diet, it was discovered that she showed all the above symptoms whenever she ate pork, chicken, cheese, peanuts, milk, corn (glucose sugar) and beet sugar. She now has de-sensitizing drops before each meal and is a normal, happy, healthy child again.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Iron bars to race bar

The shadow of apartheid has been cast over a reunion next week of Colditz prisoners. Mike Moran, a former Royal Navy commander who has run the Colditz Association for 40 years, has invited the South African ambassador, Dennis Worrall, to a party next Friday to launch a new book, *Tunnelling Into Colditz*, by a South African mining engineer, Jim Rogers. Moran, in his circular to association members, says Rogers, known to fellow captives as "Old Horse", enthusiastically approves of his move. But Rogers' delight is not shared by one Colditz POW who escaped from German custody. He is Indian and has written to Moran saying he will not be coming because of the invitation to Worrall. Moran says: "There were South Africans in every part of our war effort so our loyalties are still there - to hell with what's happening now."

Video Nazi

Rollocks restaurant, with its Banana Belgrano ice cream, has already been topped from the top of my league of bad taste advertisements. A reader sends me a local paper ad garnished with a portrait of Hitler: "If Hitler had Sinclair TV... he'd be watching more than war. Sinclair, the TV with a German accent."

● Spotted in Mexico City: a menu advertising sandwiches "with chicken leg or bosom."

Home rule

Fianna Fail supporters in Castlebar, County Mayo, have good reason for objecting to the local council's plans for a road bypass. The suggested route slices right through the birthplace of their leader, Charles Haughey. The former prime minister and present leader of the opposition has said he "doesn't wish to stand in the way" of the road. But the local party takes the view that to demolish the house - which already has a plaque on the wall celebrating its significance - would be a political ill omen, given that a general election has to be held within the next year.

Peacemeal

The government is celebrating International Year of Peace in a style which it can only describe as distinctive. The high point was to have been a Foreign Office seminar at Wilton Park in early September - during the holiday season - but this had to be cancelled for lack of interest. Now the FOC is asking people to a lecture by Sir Brian Urquhart at Chatham House on November 12. My informant, whose name was spelt wrongly on the invitation, tells me he would cross the Atlantic to hear the great UN Peacekeeper, but a week's notice is absurd; also, he could have heard Urquhart at the Central Hall a few weeks ago, along with a much larger audience than that accommodated by Chatham House.



"We all want to help the Tories, but with your sex life, forget it!"

Miles behind

I discover an explanation for Edinburgh's humiliating defeat by Glasgow in the contest to be designated European City of Culture 1990. On the face of it, Edinburgh, with its art galleries, its official festival, tattoo and fringe, would appear street-wise. But Glasgow, even given the latter's Burrell Collection and costly "Miles Better" PR campaign, I have it on the best authority, however, that Edinburgh council threw away its case in a disastrous application paper to Richard Luce, the Arts Minister. So inept was it that Malcolm Rifkind, Scottish Secretary, who represents an Edinburgh constituency, pleaded with Luce to give Edinburgh another chance. Incredibly, I understand, when its second attempt landed on Luce's desk, Rifkind was forced to admit it was just as bad.

● Even pub grub is falling victim to gentrification. A sign outside a Shaftesbury Avenue pub reads: "Ploughman's Quiche."

Family fare

I fear the Boots "Baby of the Year" competition being publicized at the Cannon cinema in Piccadilly is unlikely to attract many entries. The poster asks: "Are you the proud parent of a beautiful bouncing baby?" This must surely be answered in the negative by most of the clientele: the two films showing are *Deser Hearts*, the tale of a lesbian affair, and *Parving Glances*, about a gay triangle in New York.

PHS

Can criminals go broke?

by D.A. Thomas

The Home Secretary's speech to the Conservative lawyers, emphasizing the government's intention to strengthen the powers of the courts to seize the profits of crime (a proposal foreshadowed in a white paper on criminal justice last March) will cause some puzzlement to lawyers familiar with existing sentencing legislation. The courts have had such powers for many years in the shape of the Criminal Bankruptcy Order.

Under existing law an offender who inflicts losses totalling more than £15,000 on his victim can be made criminally bankrupt. The Director of Public Prosecutions may then petition for the appointment of a Receiver who will become vested with all the offender's property, with power to recover past transactions. The Criminal Bankruptcy Order was recently described in the Court of Appeal as "a comprehensive and far-reaching means of obtaining satisfaction: the defendant can not only be stripped of his ill-gotten

gains, but obliged to make recompense for all the loss which the injured party has suffered to the limit of his means."

The main limitation of the Criminal Bankruptcy Order results from restriction to cases where the offender has inflicted a loss. It does not apply where the offender has made a profit without inflicting specific financial losses. This means that drug traffickers, in particular, are not subject to this sanction. Partly to meet this deficiency, Parliament has recently enacted the Drug Trafficking Offences Act, designed to provide a powerful means of stripping the drug trafficker of his profits. This Act, which passed through Parliament with enthusiastic support from both sides, is expected to come into effect some time next year.

Whether it will prove to be the scourge of the drug trafficker

remains to be seen: one view is that it will cause more trouble than it is worth, and that it may possibly provide the drug trafficker with the means of delaying the pursuit of justice against him. This is because, for no obvious reason, Parliament has specified that the court must deal with the question of confiscation in every case of a drug trafficking offence. Experience suggests that the overwhelming majority of prosecutions which will attract the provisions of the Act will involve small-time pushers whose assets are extremely limited, and there is a danger that the Act will simply result in an unnecessary waste of time in an already overburdened Crown Court system.

More serious, at least in the relatively rare case of the big-time trafficker, is the requirement of the Act that the court must complete the process of making a

confiscation order before imposing the principal sentence for the offence. This process involves three distinct steps, each of which may be complicated. The court must first decide whether the offender has benefited from drug trafficking, then assess the total value of his proceeds of his profit from drug trafficking, and then determine the total value of his realizable property, before it can pass sentence.

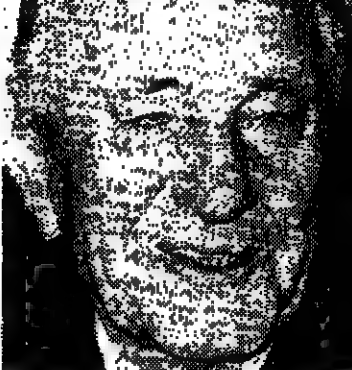
It is not difficult to see that a successful drug trafficker will be able to present his financial affairs in such a way that the first stage of this process will be long drawn out, particularly if he is able to secure release on bail in the meantime. These fears may be dispelled by experience, but it can hardly be sensible policy to extend new and untried legislation, on which the ink is scarcely dry, when the need for new powers (as opposed to effective administration) is not demonstrated.

The author is editor of *Current Sentencing Practice*.

Thirty years after the Hungarian uprising, Gyorgy Aczel, a member of the ruling Politburo, argues that its aims and targets have been misrepresented throughout the West



Rakosi: hopes abused



Kadar: trusting the people

Hungarians remember the events of 1956 in order to understand the present, and to stop us from straying once again into the error of past years.

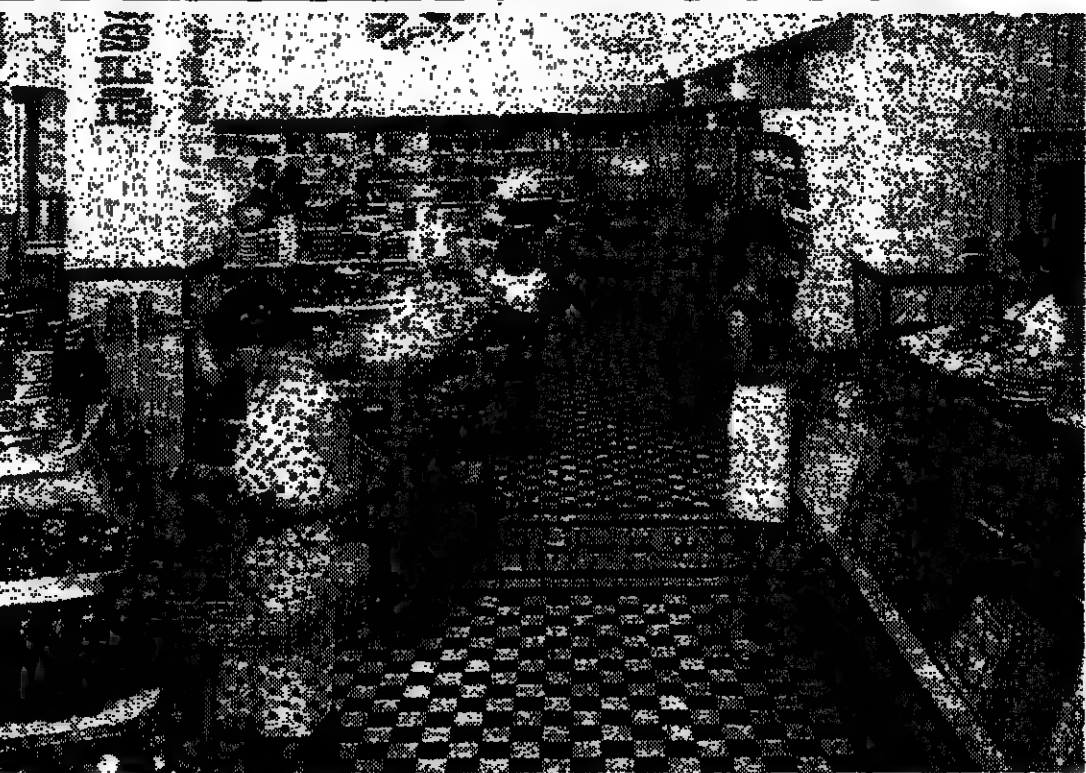
The Horthy regime, installed by joint Anglo-French efforts, ruled a country between the two world wars where 3.6 million (40 per cent of the population) enjoyed a weekly income which was the same as the price of three and a half pints of milk. Hundreds of thousands of field hands on large estates had no home of their own. "Worker" was a pejorative term in a country where the proletarian misery was much like that described by Dickens a century earlier.

The post-war years were a time when the energies of the people were set free. Unfortunately, however, from 1948 the Rakosi clique abused the people's legitimate hopes, their honest and active faith, and the ideals of socialism. That was the major cause of the national tragedy of 1956.

The break in socialist progress would not have happened without the counter-revolutionary struggle of reactionary forces. Even the West recognizes this to be true, although it supported, incited, and encouraged the counter-revolution. The speed with which Hungary was able to return to the socialist system, and not just restore law and order, offers positive proof that the people were merely disillusioned with the distortions of socialism and not with socialism itself.

The new leadership of the party based itself on putting its trust in people instead of suspecting everybody, shutting itself off from the outside world. The construction of socialism should continue on the understanding that in society, no man and no generation is so unimportant that it can be sacrificed for an objective.

That is why the deliberate self-restraint of power and the pluralism of values and interests that expresses the diversified nature of



Hungary today: enjoying the fruits of a new spirit of enterprise

1956: only an episode on road to justice

society must be manifest in a one-party system. We made a new start on the organization of agricultural cooperatives in 1958, and our success was such that it received international recognition. Both agricultural production and the income of the rural population were boosted. Food shortages became a thing of the past and - since various crop yields moved to the top of the scale - Hungary turned into a major exporter of agricultural products.

Within a generation the number of manual workers in agriculture was reduced by four fifths and the number of those with professional qualifications of university standard grew six-fold. These professional people in no way resemble the professional men of old with their gentry manners and aspirations; nor do agricultural workers resemble the peasants their fathers were, or their own former selves. For they are now the masters of their own fate.

Between 1950 and 1980 the urban population grew from about two to four million, and the number of skilled workers has doubled. These 30 years are without precedent in the history of the Hungarian nation. That is true in spite of all the difficulties and all the anxieties that accompanied these changes.

Dry figures can only indicate the extent and rate of change. In 1960 18,000 privately-owned motor vehicles were licensed; the

present figure is 1.5 million. International holiday travel is a growth industry. In the 1950s the number of tourists in each direction, totalled only tens of thousands. In 1985 more than 15 million foreigners visited Hungary and 5.5 million Hungarians travelled abroad, about a quarter of them to non-Warsaw Pact countries. For many years now those who left the country in 1956-57, be it in confusion, because they found themselves confronted, or simply out of a sense of adventure, have been coming back to their old country on visits.

We are living in difficult times. For some years now we have been up against the consequences of restructuring in the world economy which have proved unfavourable to Hungary in the long term, as well as trying to cope with the modernization of our own economic structure. We cannot stand still but must take steps forward in the reform of economic management and of the economic structure, as well as carry on with the process of extending socialist democracy.

That is why our answer was not less, but more, and more meaningful, socialist democracy even at a time of diplomatic chills, unjustified embargos and discrimination, and a deterioration in the terms of trade. This was furthered by it being made compulsory to have more than one candidate in each election and by continuing with

the right of veto for trades unions, while strengthening other rights they enjoyed, as well as their right to represent interests which devolve on the Chamber of Commerce and other institutions.

The state administrative apparatus was reorganized, greater autonomy was given to local councils, and a new Media Act was passed. Preparations are being made to introduce compulsory rotation all the way to the highest posts in the leadership. Socialist democracy cannot be confined to participation at elections every few years. The right to make one's voice heard on the job, a sense of ownership which is vital where property is held in common, and the need to strengthen the spirit of enterprise all mean that in as many enterprises as possible management should be chosen by the workforce.

Although people work too hard in Hungary today, productivity is still low. We must, therefore, shift to a higher gear. Naturally socialism to us means not only a growth in production but also a growth in welfare. We became communists to make sure that society should give men a chance to lead a meaningful and joyful life, that there should be no inequalities on the faces of men and women and fewer tears in their eyes, that they should have a sense of security and a sense of dignity, and that they should look on this socialist country as their own. Our work for the past 30 years has been devoted to this, and this remains our aim for the future as well.

Humanity is the sole beneficiary of peaceful competition between the different social systems. And it is humanity that would perish should this competition degenerate into fierce and senseless war. Let us compete for ways in which to offer a more free, complete, and meaningful life to mankind without oppressing, exploiting, or mistreating others.

Nothing but trouble at the diploma mill

Washington A highly critical report from one of America's leading research foundations has found that most of the country's 3,300 four-year undergraduate colleges and universities have lost their direction. The courses are fragmented, the teachers bored and cynical, the students neglected, the goals confused and the graduates unprepared for the real world.

The report, the result of a three-year study by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, says the undergraduate college is "a troubled institution." It cites soaring expenses, students with low academic standards and little intellectual curiosity, too much emphasis on "big-time" sport and poor coordination of intellectual and social life on campus.

The main criticism is that most university teachers, under career pressure to get ahead, spend too much time on research and too little on teaching. Students said they felt they were treated like a number instead of a person, especially in the large state universities with up to 40,000 students. But the students themselves are not spared. The report says that in an average week one in four never goes to the library and two thirds use it for four hours or less. Many are excessively vocational, in-

terested only in getting a profitable job, "so that I can make some money and then take it easy," as one said. They are "exceedingly passive." One professor remarked: "My students have no idea what scholarship in my department is all about." As a result, BA degrees in business studies have doubled from 114,865 in 1971 to 230,031 in 1984, while degrees in English have fallen from 57,026 to 26,419. Some colleges have dropped BA courses in such subjects as biology and music to emphasize business specialties such as restaurant management.

Many students arrive at university so incompetent in reading, writing and mathematics that they need remedial work. As one of the 5,000 lecturers interviewed in the study remarked: "The biggest problem I have with my students is getting them to read and write." One reason is the lack of selection; with too many colleges competing for too few students, there is little competition to get a place.

The Carnegie report is particularly worrying because it comes from one of the liberal foundations most identified with support for education. Its president, Dr Ernest Boyer, was US Commissioner of Education under President Carter. He said last week that American colleges suffer from

conflicting priorities and competing special interests. He recommends a number of reforms: applicants for university entry should have to submit a written essay; students should take a one-year English course, and their four-year curriculum should include a compulsory core of language, the arts, history, social and government institutions and the natural sciences.

Lack of money and rising fees had already led to talk of a crisis in American higher education which, with 12.3 million students and an annual bill of \$102.2 billion, is a very important factor in the economy. The report found that many parents and taxpayers consider the cost - fees range from \$1,000 a year at state institutions to \$16,000 at private universities - to be outrageous.

The many confusions and disagreements on goals identified by the Carnegie report include a separation between academic and non-academic life and a mismatch between secondary and higher education. Similar concerns have been voiced by William Bennett, President Reagan's Secretary of Education, who recently told Harvard University that it was wasting students' fees, had failed to show clear educational purpose and did not provide a solid "moral education."

The Carnegie report illustrates how the end of the baby boom and growing public reluctance to spend tax dollars have taken their toll on American higher education. Many liberal arts colleges that thrived in the 1960s are struggling to survive, concentrating only on what students "relevant" both to job-hungry students and to wary state legislatures. As Carnegie noted: "Driven by careerism and overwhelmed by graduate and professional education, many are more successful in credentialing than in providing a quality education." But the backlash has begun. Already public disquiet over the low standards of secondary schools in the US has fuelled a "back-to-the-basics" movement, led to tougher standards for teachers and renewed public concern over what happens in the classroom. Carnegie heralds a similar movement now in higher education. There is an ever louder clamour for academic excellence, for standards, rigour and intellectual responsibility. It is a movement liberals once denounced as elitism, a "more-means-worse philosophy that hampered minorities" and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. But now even the liberals believe it is time to tighten up.

Michael Binyon

Danny Finkelstein

More democratic than socialist

"Socialism is what Labour governments do." That was the sophisticated political philosophy of Herbert Morrison. Now, along with many of Morrison's other beliefs, Labour activists believe the reverse: "Socialism is what Labour governments didn't do."

Labour activists have drawn an odd conclusion from the past three decades in government and opposition. They have blamed the failure on the betrayal of democratic socialism by Labour politicians in office. They are confident about facing the rigours of office only now that they have replaced "the revisionist traitors" of the last Labour government, evil people like Fred Mulley, with honest socialists like Roy Hattersley and Gerald Kaufman. Eventually, of course, these bastions of socialism will themselves be denounced and replaced by even sturdier bastions.

At its inception, the SDP advanced a more sensible but still only partially correct argument. Labour's failure was blamed on the nature of the party. The formal link with the trade unions, the homage paid to Clause IV, the antipathy of Labour to international alliances and increasing Trotskyite infiltration - all these shortcomings had made the modernization of British socialism impossible. Only a new party, free from these debilitating defects, could take proper advantage of the rich democratic socialist tradition.

Gradually, over the last five years, the SDP's analysis has changed. The democratic socialist tradition itself is seen to be at fault. Most SDP members see central flaws in socialism which cannot be removed simply by "modernization". They also see the importance of other political traditions and acknowledge their influence.

In debates at SDP conferences very few members can now be found who equate social democracy with democratic socialism. Members are much more likely to state that the SDP is a "new party". They do not, of course, suggest that political history began in 1981, but they do suggest that the SDP is a new and creative synthesis of many political traditions rather than the narrow product of one.

The perceived deficiencies in democratic socialism are numerous. The most important is that democratic socialism sees democracy as simply the means to socialism, and as socialist politicians become more powerful they simply stress more and more emphatically that socialist ends will take a long time to achieve.

For the social democrat, on the other hand, no end is foreseen to the political process: there will always be conflicts of interest and of value that will have to be reconciled. The democratic socialist tradition and its adherents will always undervalue the importance of democracy and oppose its reform: if it inconvenience

the achievement of socialist ends. There is a further criticism: that democratic socialists pursue equality to the exclusion of other aims and yet are vague on the nature of the egalitarian society they are seeking; that the tradition is antipathetic to the price mechanism while presenting no workable alternative; that it accepts an over-simplified and outdated class analysis.

No politician, however honest, can overcome the deficiencies of such a tradition. No party, however modern its institutions, can afford to be restricted to thinking only in terms of such a philosophy. It is this gradual realization that has characterized the development of the SDP. It has not moved to the right, but has simply grown up. The SDP does not, of course, deny the significance of democratic socialism. It owes to this tradition its determination to fight economic injustice, its desire to eradicate class distinction and its resolve to redistribute wealth. But it is now prepared to acknowledge a debt to other philosophical traditions.

Perhaps the best example is its readiness to accept that the new Liberal tradition is as important to the party as the socialist tradition. The SDP has learnt from the new Liberals the importance of the individual and of liberty. It has learned a healthy scepticism about the benevolence of all central state activity. It has learned the importance of political reform. It has learned that the reformer's job is to combat injustice as it becomes evident rather than to follow social blueprints.

Many members of the SDP have also had the confidence to admit what to many Labour activists would be anathema: that there is much good in the often neglected tradition of Tory democracy. The Tory democrats have bequeathed to the SDP a belief in national unity, in compromise and in consensus. The SDP has accepted, too, the unity of rights and responsibilities and the value of pragmatism rather than dogmatic change.

From these traditions and influences and from others - continental social democracy, American liberalism, the feminist movement - has come the synthesis of ideas that is the philosophy of the SDP. From the formation of this synthesis comes also the determination that the future of politics should lie in the competition of many different ideas rather than a clash between two outdated ones.

Labour, on the other hand, is destined to spend its days in fratricidal conflict over the bones of a dead philosophy. However good Neil Kinnock is on television, however well it does at the next election, the truth is, to use Tony Crosland's comment on public spending: "The party's over."

The author is Alliance prospective parliamentary candidate for Brent East.

moreover... Miles Kington

Your very own male model

The first of the glittering new Young Entrepreneur of the Month awards was made at the weekend by the proprietor of Moreover Enterprises himself, Lord Moreover. Lord Moreover has always believed in encouraging industry in others, usually by keeping them at the office till midnight, and it was with a keen sense of anticipation that the distinguished guests sped up the M1 on Sunday evening. The ceremony itself took place in the Park Scratching service area conference suite, which represents everything that is best about British business.

At 9.35 precisely, just as the coffee was being cleared away and poured back into containers ready for the next gala dinner, Lord Moreover flew in by helicopter and was whisked to the microphone to make his speech, which was handed to him by a team of scribes.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is the first Young Entrepreneur of the Month award ceremony, which is designed to help young people to get their first footing on the ladder which leads to the heights of the black economy. As a young man I arrived in London without a penny in my pocket, and by 4.30 pm the same day I had already made my first million. What was my secret? I'll tell you. I didn't waste time poncing around at Young Entrepreneur of the Month ceremonies - I went straight out and supplied what other people demanded."

"But enough of myself. The competition for this premier award, made possible by the Moreover charitable foundation, Tax Dodge Aid, has been intense. And some of the entrants have been quite ingenious. For instance, I was very struck with the contestant who has set up a small catering firm for weddings. For the wedding ceremony itself, that is - he means a well-stocked drinks trolley up and down the aisles of churches."

personally. The same cannot be said for another entrant who has devised a way of making a profit on the Stock Exchange without anyone knowing. However, I have come to a private arrangement with him and he has now withdrawn to work for me."

"The winner, though, is a young firm which has devised an inflatable male companion. Yes, you heard me. An inflatable male friend. In the shoddy shops of Soho you can, I believe, purchase inflatable females if you are going to the South Pole. But this is something quite different - it is aimed at the many lone females who dread going into restaurants or pubs by themselves because of male reaction. Now, at last, they have someone who will sit opposite and will be courteous, companionable and quiet. There is another inflatable model who will walk you home at night in complete safety, and if you saw his fierce appearance, you would understand why. In many ways these inflatables are much more useful than real men."

"The inflatable man has many other uses. He can be left in a dining-car or railway coach seat to reserve it. He can be left under a car, with his legs sticking out, so that a prying traffic warden will think the car is being mended. He can be left by the pool at the crack of dawn, to keep the sunbathing place at your hotel which would otherwise be taken by Germans. He can head government commissions, answer telephones at the ares or do any other job which requires total immobility."

"In my case, I shall certainly buy one or two to take to public dinners, to sit next to me. They are bound to be better company than the people normally placed at my side. In any case, I am delighted to present the award to Young Inflatables of Croydon. The prize, of course, is a chance to sell all rights and assets exclusively to Moreover Enterprises. They have until this time tomorrow to think it over. The rest of you, no doubt, will get very drunk at my expense."

So saying, his Lordship pocketed several cigars, had his wife good night and disappeared towards the helicopter prior to who knows what assignment.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

THE GREATER GAME

Few things in the Middle East are what they seem. While the world was still rejoicing with Dr David Jacobson over his release from captivity in Lebanon — and congratulating Mr Terry Waite for helping to bring this about — it became apparent last night that both men played only small parts in a play of much greater political consequence.

Even that hardly describes the revelations, which we print on page 12 today, of the intrigue involving five governments and the freedom of innocent men. The mission of Mr Robert McFarlane, a former National Security Adviser in Washington, allegedly travelling to Iran on an Irish passport with a plane load of arms, a signed Bible from his President and a parcel of cakes for Ayatollah Khomeini, must count among the strangest in diplomatic history. Beside that, the more familiar New Testament presence of Mr Waite, dressed in his cassock and descending from an aircraft in a war-ravaged corner of the Third World to bargain for captured men's lives, seems comparatively mundane. What are we to make of it?

That there was less than met the eye to Mr Waite's criss-crossing of the Levant, should not be a surprise. He is no miracle man and it has looked for some time as if the West was beginning to expect too much of him. As the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy extraordinary, he approaches

any crisis as a man of God — representing Christian values and humanity. The hostages in Lebanon are being held by men more interested in politics than piety — though willing to use both in the cynical pursuit of their objectives. In short, there was clearly a price to pay beyond Mr Waite's spiritual resources.

It now seems clear that the release of Dr Jacobson was engineered by politicians engaged in the complex politics of the Middle East and at a far higher level than anyone could have supposed. The governments of Syria, Iran and the United States, presumably France and apparently Kuwait, would seem to have been involved in a secret bargaining round over arms supplies and influence, in which the safety of innocent men and the emotions of their families have been once more part of a greater game.

It all makes for feelings of profound unease. To buy the release of innocent men by freeing convicted murderers from jail or to deal in the murky underworld of the arms trade and political alliances, is to risk surrendering the high ground to terrorists. Short-term relief can be bought by such means only at the cost of long-term anxiety and grief. Gradually the response to terrorism has been toughening as more and more governments have come to recognise this general principle.

It is hard to make lasting judgements on this strange

affair. The details are only now emerging and there will doubtless be denials and counter-claims in the coming weeks. But at first sight it looks as if the United States, which has taken the lead in confronting the forces of international terrorism, has been carrying the onus of negotiations in a public and publicised manner. While it may not have entered into talks directly with the terrorists themselves, it has bought the cooperation of the Iranian government at a price which is of doubtful acceptability.

For the Syrians and the Iranians, both of whom have clearly been involved, there can be little sympathy. The course of events would seem to justify the long-standing suspicion that both governments have had it in their power to secure the release of at least some of the hostages in Lebanon. If they have chosen to exercise that power only when they have secured the right political price, they deserve contempt not gratitude.

Mr Waite himself would seem to have been used as decoy in this affair. There is no reason to suspect his motives and he must, by his courage and industry, emerge as the one unblemished player in the plot. But he has been in danger for some time of becoming an institutionalised figure, whose good will could be abused by governments. He might need to reassess his interests if indeed this is starting to happen.

LOOKING THROUGH THE LEFT

Mr Kinnock has tried his best this year to convey the impression that the only threat to democracy comes from the Militant organisation, and that he has dealt with it. He ignores (though the general public will not forget) the rest of the hard left, which from so many inner city town halls and constituency parties, uses its power to flout public wishes, and which will have more MPs in the next Parliament, whatever the result of the election.

Yet to focus on the hard left, also distorts the picture of the Labour Party. If the rest of the party were soundly committed to democratic values, the hard left could be eradicated. But the rest of the party is not so committed, which is why Mr Kinnock dare not strike at the wider hard left as he does at the Militants. He is inhibited by the fact that the so-called soft left, from which he himself sprang, is now the pivot on which the Labour Party balances, and the soft left protects the hard.

The soft left is separated from the hard for two reasons. It understands that the quasi-revolutionary policies of the hard left's "party democracy" repel voters. More disinterestedly, when faced with the authoritarian logic of so much left-wing thinking, the soft left genuinely flinches from it.

So why does the soft left protect the hard? One reason is fear of alienating supporters who control so much of Labour's local party machinery.

They do not want a civil war in advance of a general election. There is also a residual feeling that these are "our people" who cannot be disowned; socialists with the same ultimate vision who could be kept in place once Mr Kinnock was in power.

But the distortion in the picture really arises from the enforced unity brought about by the soft left between itself and the so-called moderates, represented by Mr Hattersley, Mr Kaufman, Mr John Smith and their like. This only exists because the soft left is pivotal and controls the party, forcing the moderates to swallow a range of leftist policies from Mr Healey's acceptance of a wholly non-nuclear policy to Mr Hattersley's highly controlled economic policy, of which the latest manifestation is his announcement this week of his ideas for subjecting pension funds to controls. The crucial fact about the Labour Party is not the position of the hard versus the soft left but the extent to which the two together have forced the moderates to toe their line.

Last week's Shadow Cabinet elections were widely interpreted as showing a split between the hard and soft left to the benefit of the moderates. The Tribune (soft) and Campaign (hard) groups had failed to agree on a slate, over a technical argument about voting. As a result, two of the Tribune Group, Mr Robin

Cooke, Mr Kinnock's chief campaign strategist, and Mr Robert Hughes, were voted off. Their places were taken by Dr David Clark, of the Solidarity (moderate) group and Mr Bryan Gould, a politician of clear ability, who is among the most moderate of the soft left. Mr Gould now has Mr Cook's old job; Dr Clark has the job of Environment protection.

But this shift to the centre on a technical argument about Shadow Cabinet voting signifies no more than the shift to the left last year when both groups had a pact. Soft left policies now generally prevail in the party. They have much in common with those of the hard left. The question now is how clearly the electorate will understand this.

The signs are not encouraging for Mr Kinnock. A Gallup survey of the 16-29 year age group has found that on nuclear defence policy opinion is almost exactly divided in the group where he expected most support, and where Labour is generally in the biggest lead. At the same time, a Marplan poll has shown a two to one rejection of Labour's nuclear policy. Overall, the Conservatives seem to have caught up Labour in the opinion polls. The general public usually has the knack of registering what the real state of a party is. Perhaps it has understood the shift that has taken place in the structure of the Labour Party and what it portends.

CHUNNEL BLUES

The initial enthusiasm for the Channel tunnel project has taken several knocks in recent weeks. This was perhaps to be expected. The media excitement with which such important national projects are launched inevitably gives way to a period in which the doubters bubble away. To use a Budget metaphor we are now at the "finance bill" stage when the grand certainties of Budget day are subject to the detailed scrutiny and organised opposition of the sceptics.

This feeling of hesitancy ought to pass away as the project becomes further advanced. It would be a tragedy if, having secured a political consensus on both sides of the Channel and having finally agreed a preferred scheme, the back-biting were so to delay the project that it ran out of impetus altogether.

Yesterday the Transport Secretary, Mr John Moore, spoke of his dismay at the "suspicion and inertia" towards the tunnel and the "paralyzing fear of change" which it generated. He acknowledged — perhaps not soon enough — that the project touched a sensitive nerve and that the Government would therefore have to work all the harder to convince those who have reservations about it.

There are various streams of dissent. The local concerns of the people of East Kent are perhaps the most straightforward. Projects on this scale are seldom free from environmental costs and as far as possible these doubts must be assuaged.

Job worries may be even more pressing but they come more pressing into the category of "fear of change". Certainly there will be some impact on the ferries but equally there will be new jobs created by the tunnel itself. More important for the country as a whole, easier communications with the continent will create new jobs in a whole range of industries to whom trade links are vital.

More difficult to address, because more nebulous, is the deep-seated feeling that we are more secure as an island and that we, by-pass maritime protection at our peril. Only time and familiarity are likely to prove an effective antidote to instinctive insularity.

Scepticism in the City about the project's financial appeal is not entirely unrelated to these other strands of opposition. An investment which arouses no political sensitivities is always preferable to one that is controversial on so many fronts. But the more important reason for the difficulties en-

countered by Eurotunnel and its advisers in raising initial equity finance have more to do with the likely attractions of competing investment opportunities, not least the future privatisations planned by the Government.

The difficulties are unfortunate because the tunnel is the archetype of privately financed infrastructure projects which could provide a high proportion of the increased capital investment for which MPs in all parties have regularly called. On a much smaller scale the proposed Dartford bridge is another interesting step along this path.

If the Treasury can agree that the risk involved in these projects is genuinely in the private sector and the financing not part of public spending then an important constraint on the improvement of the country's capital assets will be lifted. Investment will also be subject to the judgement of the market rather than the more erratic discrimination of politicians.

Difficulties in financing a project the size of the Channel tunnel do not necessarily imply difficulties for other more modest infrastructure projects in the private sector. The Government should press ahead with this aspect of its programme.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Aids screening for high-risk groups

From Professor M. R. Bracken

Sir, The lack of either a vaccine or cure for Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) leaves only one other method of epidemic control — preventing the transmission of infection. Educational programs will have little impact and, indeed, cannot be properly evaluated unless they are linked to a massive, voluntary and confidential Aids screening program.

Serologic tests can now identify human immunodeficiency virus with reasonable accuracy and seropositive individuals should be the focus of education and counseling since they are the potential transmitters of the disease.

Given limited resources it is less efficient (and almost certainly less effective) to try and educate the entire population, although common sense demands some expenditure of effort here also.

Moreover, only by measuring a decline in the rate of seropositive individuals in the population will we know that our educational and preventive measures (such as the provision of sterile needles to drug abusers) are working and that the epidemic is being brought under control.

Screening does not need to be universally mandatory if large enough segments of the population volunteer — a prospect which should be easier as Aids is increasingly recognized to be a disease which affects those outside the known high-risk groups. Mandatory testing is necessary for some individuals (blood, organ and sperm donors) and, possibly, ought to be for others (health professionals, the Armed Forces, and convicted prostitutes).

The Aids epidemic has the potential for becoming the greatest threat to civilization since the bubonic plague and only draconian public health measures are likely to bring about its control.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL R. BRACKEN,
Yale University,
School of Medicine,
New Haven,
Connecticut 06510, USA.

From Dr L. J. Donaldson
Sir, The suggestion raised in the Thames Television programme *This Week*, and supported by the majority of viewers polled, that screening of the general population for the Aids virus should be introduced adds to the already complex ethical and moral issues surrounding the disease.

The decision as to whether to embark on a programme to detect the presence of a disease, or marker for a disease, in a population the majority of whom are not symptomatic is still governed by principles promulgated under the auspices of the World Health Organisation in the late 1960s.

The most fundamental of these is an ethical one: it highlights the distinction between testing which

BBC reporting under fire

From Mr Glyn James

Sir, Perhaps Mr Tebbit and his political misadventures are unaware that some of us are more interested in the preservation of a free expression of views than in their evidently acute anxieties about the outcome of the next general election.

Is it not the case that the Government's own selective reporting of certain events to Parliament over recent months has blackened the Tebbit/Thatcher pot so much that they desperately seek out a kettle — any kettle?

What after seven years of already uninterrupted power do they want — a one governing-party State and a country which relies entirely for its political news and comment upon those popular dailies which support the Conservative party?

No! I will gladly continue to pay the BBC licence fee, if only as an expression of confidence in one of the few sources of objective reporting left in the media.

Yours faithfully,
GLYN JAMES,
17 Broadmead Crescent,
Bishopston,
West Hamorgan,
October 31.

From Mr Eric R. Wilkinson
Sir, The reaction of the BBC to Mr Tebbit's letter about Libyan air-strike reporting has followed a well tried PR principle, exemplified by the anecdote of the visiting preacher finding his predecessor's sermon notes discarded in the pulpit and noticing a pencil remark scribbled in the margin: "Argument weak here — about like blazes!"

Many of those who have chosen, on this occasion, to defend the BBC are also well grounded in PR. "If the target is difficult to defend," they reflect, "change the target". So they react as though the criticism was of the facts reported, rather than of the comment which somehow got mixed up with the facts.

When the smokescreens have dispersed, it will be interesting to read the BBC's reply to the valid demand made in Mr Tebbit's letter.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC R. WILKINSON,
The Stable,
Chapel Lane,
Grateley,
Andover, Hampshire,
November 3.

Gorbachov meeting

From General Sir John Hackett

Sir, It was made known at the time of the Geneva summit last November that the Vice-Chairman of CND in Britain, Monsignor Bruce Kent, had been received in audience by the Secretary General of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. I have nowhere seen any account of what was said between them.

It has long been perfectly clear to very many of us that Mr Gorbachov's laudable intention to ease the USSR out of the shackles fastened on it by the old guard was impossible to fulfil without a sharp movement of industrial resources away from military procurement toward the satisfaction of civilian demand. The industrial strength of the USA is such that it can very easily produce huge quantities of military hardware while continuing at the same time to satisfy all domestic demands for consumer durables.

The USSR cannot, and probably no one knows this better than Mr Gorbachov. It was therefore abundantly clear that if the so-called "peace movements" in the West failed to secure a unilateral reduction in arms levels, without negotiation, the USSR would without any question at all have to return to the negotiating table.

The "peace movements" failed. So what, if anything, did the head of an officially atheist State say to this Christian priest? There are certainly very many people who would like to know.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. HACKETT,
Cobley Mill,
nr Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
October 29.

White poppies

From Mr A. J. Augarde

Sir, Your correspondents (October 31) seem to misunderstand the intention of the white poppy. It is not intended to replace the red poppy but simply to offer an alternative for those people to whom the red poppy has become too closely associated with militaristic ceremonies of remembrance.

Rose Simpson, the General Secretary of the Co-operative Women's Guild which instituted the white poppy in 1933, said: "The white poppy is not a piece of political propaganda. It is a definite pledge to peace that war must not happen again."

Yours faithfully,
A. J. AUGARDE,
18 Carlton Road, Oxford,
October 31.

Grand Prix failings

From Mr Greg Masters

Sir, Lord Killearn (October 31) has totally missed the point. The object in all motor racing is to be first to the chequered flag. The role of the team and pit crew is to assist the car and driver in meeting this objective.

In Grand Prix racing, it is the case that cars can normally complete the distance in a shorter time when equipped with soft (and likely less durable) tyres than they can with tyres capable of going the full distance. Similar arguments are valid regarding mid-distance refuelling, but this practice was outlawed some time ago on safety grounds.

Yours faithfully,
GREG MASTERS,
13 Agate Close,
Park Quays, Beckton, E76.

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 5 1936

The Tynesiders who marched from Jarrow to Westminster in 1936 may not have immediately improved their lot, but they have linked the name of their town with unemployment ever since.

Starting on October 5 some 200 of them covered the 300 miles in 27 days ("On This Day", November 2, 1985). Two years after the march unemployment had dropped from 80 per cent to 30 per cent.

Jarrow's Petition

By the constitutional method of petition the people of Jarrow and the people of Tyneside have appealed to Parliament to go to the help of a town that lost almost all its employment when its shipyard and its ironworks were closed. For years the town has cherished hopes of a resurrection of its industry and has been additionally afflicted by one disappointment after another. What was at first an industrial calamity, acute but not necessarily irreparable, has since received hard ratification through the operation of what are described as rationalisation schemes. Both the shipbuilding and the iron and steel industries have taken decisions which forbid the revival in Jarrow of the industries which made it and for years kept it prosperous. The people of Jarrow are therefore the sufferers from decisions that they could not influence and that have been to the benefit of other places. They have done what they could for themselves, and they have had the disinterested help of SIR JOHN JARVIS, who has laboured not only to reduce the hardship of the town's unemployment but also to attract employment. The town's latest action has been this appeal to Parliament. All Tyneside has supported Jarrow's special plea for the resources of the Government to be employed so as to turn industry to the town.

Jarrow will appreciate sympathy, but its petition to Parliament asks for work. Jarrow's position is not altogether typical of the distressed areas because it is a modern town advantageously situated on a great waterway, and moreover it is closely linked by excellent transport facilities with the rest of Tyneside. In its want of employment, however, it has a tragic equality with other distressed areas and it is but a part of a far greater national problem. The reiteration of the plea that the Government should actively assist the settlement of industrial areas in the distressed areas has evoked no response from Ministers. Having provided means for financing major industries and (through the Special Areas Commissioners) for establishing trading estates, and having also begun the building of two or three factories in the areas and distributed many orders for munitions that will increase the available employment in the country generally, and, to some extent, in the distressed areas (although not in the worst parts of them), the Government are waiting. What is in the minds of those who appeal for more direct and immediate action to influence the location of industry is that, if the opportunity of the present industrial activity is lost, it may never recur. It is much too late in the day to suggest that the conditions of industry and the location of industry are not direct concerns of the Government. In fact national policy is to some extent responsible for the circumstances of the distressed areas, and the virtual veto of the proposal to construct a new steel works at Jarrow was only made possible by the monopolistic power possessed by the British Iron and Steel Federation, which enjoys the protection of a high tariff. National policy can justifiably be directed to the planting in the distressed areas of new industries as to the safeguarding of old industries. It does not follow that each decayed mining village must have a little industry of its own; modern transport as well as industrial requirements make such a suggestion ridiculous. But new industries are required to save the distressed areas from a lingering death; and, if private enterprise stands aside, it becomes the more necessary that the Government should act.

A barred game

From Mr Gerald Leach

Sir, Regarding the complaint of your correspondent Mr Victor Hext (October 31) that he was requested to transfer his game of piquet from the saloon to the public bar, he may be unaware that in any case he would be acting illegally, as under the gaming laws this game is prohibited on licensed premises together with all other card games with the exception of cribbage (for modest stakes).

Together with some friends, I was recently requested by the landlord of a pub to discontinue a friendly game of poker in the public bar, our stakes consisting of matchsticks.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD LEACH,
35 Beachfield Road,
Bembridge,
Isle of Wight,
October 31.

From Mr George Strang

Sir, No doubt your readers will provide many examples of inverted social discrimination in sport. My own experience is limited to being banished from a pub with friends for singing. The landlord explained that the "wall-to-wall" music which was enjoyed by his better class customers was in danger of not being heard. He obligingly moved our glasses to the counter in the public bar.

Yours faithfully,
GEO STRANG,
61 Manor Drive,
Hinchley Wood,
Essex, Surrey.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 4: His Excellency Mr. Sudheer Prasavinitchai was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessors and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Thailand to the Court of St. James's. His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Mr. Vikrom Dappungrung (Minister Counsellor), Captain Prida Karasudhithi (Defence and Naval Attaché), Group Captain Amorn Neerwalee (Air Attaché), Colonel Kamol Dappungrung (Military Attaché), Mrs. Piswong Anurakhanond (Counsellor), Mr. Sukasem Yothasamut (First Secretary), Mr. Akasit Amnatyakul (Second Secretary) and Mr. Supasit Amnatyakul (Second Secretary). Mr. Prasavinitchai had the honour of being received by the Queen.

Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), who had the honour of being received by the Queen, was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr. D. M. McBain (Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Antananarivo) and Mrs. McBain had the honour of being received by the Queen.

The Earl of Swinton had the honour of being received by the Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Captain of Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard and delivered up his Stick of Office.

The Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of the Queen this evening.

The Princess Anne, Mrs. Mark Phillips, Chancellor of the University of London, this morning opened the new extension to the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, London, SE5.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Vice-Chancellor of the University (the Lord Flowers).

The Princess Anne, Mrs. Mark Phillips, Honorary President of the Chartered Institute of Transport, attended the Anniversary Luncheon, to celebrate the founding of the Institute in 1919 and the grant of a Royal Charter in 1924, at the Connaught Rooms, London, WC2.

Her Royal Highness was received by the President of the Institute (Mr. G. Myers). The Princess Anne, Mrs. Mark Phillips, Chancellor of the University of London, this afternoon opened the Hunterian Institute at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2.

During the afternoon Her Royal Highness was admitted an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

The Princess Anne, Mrs. Mark Phillips, was received on arrival by the Vice-Chancellor of the University (the Lord Flowers) and the President of the College (the Lord Todd).

Mrs. Timothy Holderness Roddam was in attendance. KENSINGTON PALACE November 4: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President of the Heart Disease and Diabetes Research Trust, opened the Cavendish Clinic, Wellington Road, this afternoon.

Lady Elizabeth Cavendish was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, was present this evening at the Annual General Meeting of the BLOT (British Library of Tape Recordings for Hospital Patients) at Drapers' Hall, London, EC2.

Mrs. Michael Wigley was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE November 4: The Duke of Kent, Vice Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, today visited British Aerospace plc at Warton, Preston, Lancashire.

His Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight, was attended by Sir Richard Buckley.

Richmond Tutorial College
Mr. Carey Palmer, principal of Richmond Tutorial College, has appointed Mr. R.H. Sanders, Bursar of Richmond Tutorial College, for the academic year 1986/87, and Mr. D.R. Martin, Registrar and senior tutor. Mr. G. Read and Miss J. De Leon have been appointed visiting tutors.

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for the Disabled
All tickets for the Guinness and Oyster Luncheon to be held on November 19, at the Mansion House, in aid of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for the Disabled have been sold.

Service Dinners
The Royal Hussars (PWO) The regimental dinner of The Royal Hussars (PWO) was held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Colonel Sir Piers Bengough, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

RAF Strike Command
Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse, Chief of the Defence Staff, and Lady Fieldhouse were the guests of honour at a ladies' guest night dinner held at HQ Strike Command yesterday. Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Strike Command, and Lady Harding received the guests. Group Captain R.E. Hart presided and Wing Commander P.B. Holmes, accompanied by Mrs. Holmes, was dined out on his retirement from the service.

A memorial service for Viscount Bessborough will be held at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, St John's Wood Road, at 3pm today.

Buckingham Palace Luncheon

The Queen held a luncheon party at Buckingham Palace yesterday. The Duke of Gloucester was present and the guests were:

Mrs. Heather Briscoe (High Mistress, St Paul's Girls' School), Mrs. William Woodhouse (President, The Women's Institute), Mrs. John G. Myers (President, Chartered Institute of Transport), Mrs. John G. Myers (President, Chartered Institute of Transport), Mrs. John G. Myers (President, Chartered Institute of Transport).

Luncheon
Chartered Institute of Transport Princess Anne, Honorary President of the Chartered Institute of Transport, was a speaker at the anniversary luncheon, held at the Connaught Rooms yesterday, to celebrate the diamond jubilee of the granting of the Royal Charter to the Institute.

The President, Mr. G. Myers, Vice-Chairman of British Railways Board, presided and Mr. D. Mitchell, Minister of State for Transport, also spoke.

Media Society
Miss Barbara Hosking, Vice-President of the Media Society, presided at a luncheon held at the Café Royal yesterday. Mr. Jeremy Isaacs was the guest speaker.

Lunchtime Comment Club
Professor Sir Graham Smith was the guest speaker at a luncheon given by the Lunchtime Comment Club yesterday at the Connaught Rooms. Mr. S. John Holt, chairman, presided.

Building Employers' Confederation
Mr. George W. Hammond, President of the London region of the Building Employers' Confederation, was host at a luncheon held at Plasterers' Hall yesterday. Mr. Michael Heseltine, MP, was the chief guest.

Receptions
HM Government Mr. Michael Howard, QC, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, was host at a reception at Banquet House yesterday on the occasion of the Home Safety Research and Accident Prevention Conference. Middlesex Hospital Medical School

Mr. William Slack, Dean of the Medical School, presided at a reception held yesterday at the school to mark the 150th anniversary of London University.

Dinners
Pharmaceutical Society Great Britain Mr. Geoffrey Booth, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, presided at a dinner held at the society's headquarters yesterday. Lord Winstanley, Liberal Party spokesman on Health and Social Services, also spoke.

London Solicitors' Litigation Association
Mr. Stephen Jakobi presided at the annual dinner of the London Solicitors Litigation Association held at the Law Society's Hall yesterday. Mr. Giles Shepard, Sheriff of Greater London, and Judge Michael Cook were the guest speakers.

International Maritime Industries Forum
The International Maritime Industries Forum held its annual dinner last night at the Inn on the Park Hotel, presiding the full forum meeting. Mr. J.G. Davis, Chairman, presided and the speakers at the dinner were Mr. K.H. Nayyar, Vice President of the Commission of the European Communities, and Dr. G. Lenka, Austrian Ambassador.

London Business School
Sir Terence Beckett, chairman of the governing body, presided at a dinner held at the London Business School on October 30, to mark the granting of a royal charter to the school. Mr. George Walden, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education, proposed a toast to the school to which the principal, Professor Peter Moore, replied.



Mrs. Helene Alexander with some of the 1,000 antique fans she hopes to put on display in two converted Georgian houses in Crooms Hill, Greenwich, south London, but which may go instead to Geneva, Switzerland, if planning permission is refused. (Photograph: Arthur Foster)

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.V. Adams and Dr A.M. Chalk
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mrs Robert Brooks, of Cobham, Surrey, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Chalk, of The Old Rectory, Wheatstead, Suffolk.

Mr S.M.J. Arnold and Miss L.J. Best
The engagement is announced between Simon Mark Joseph, younger son of the late Rev E.J. Arnold and of Mrs M. Arnold, of Tiverton, Devon, and Kathryn Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.R. Bond, of Kirbymoorside, North Yorkshire.

Mr C.D. Bradbury and Miss N.J. Pope
The engagement is announced between Colin, younger son of Mr and Mrs K.A. Bradbury, of Salford, Manchester, and Nicola, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Pope, of Hayes End, Middlesbrough.

Mr A.M.W. Don and Miss M.C. Berys
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mrs Janet Don, of Weston, Gloucestershire, and the late Major D.T.K. Don, and Margot, daughter of Mr John Berys, of Blackheath, and Mrs Daphne Dennis, of Kew, Kent.

Mr E.V. MacM. Cameron and Miss A.K. Zeki-Hilton
The engagement is announced between Evan, only son of Mr R.D. Cameron, of Blackhouse Cottage, Henfield, Sussex, and Mrs R.C. Allhouse, of The North Hill, Yell, and Alexandra, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs F.H. Hilton, of Benzeduna, Spain.

Mr C.H. Allhouse and Miss P.A. Rae
The marriage took place on Friday, October 31, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, of Mr Christian Henry Allhouse, eldest son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs R.C. Allhouse, of Bradenham Hall, Bedford, Norfolk, and Miss Penelope Amanda Rae, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Rae, of Fuller's House, Brompton, Chelsea.

Mr J.D. Fenner and Miss G.P. Bishop
Nuptial Mass was celebrated on October 25, at the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Oxford, by Canon John Bailey, Father Derek Grafton and Father James Harvey, St. who also gave the banns, at the marriage of Mr Jonathan Fenner, son of Mr and Mrs W.L. Fenner, of Forest Hill, and Miss Gillian Bishop, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.D.L. Bishop, of Grosvenor, Cheshire.

Mr J.D. Fenner and Miss G.P. Bishop
The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Elizabeth Osborne and Alexander Wright. Mr Paul Hudson was best man.

Mr J.D. Fenner and Miss G.P. Bishop
A reception was held at Chiddingstone Castle and the honeymoon is being spent in Kenya.

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR KURT HIRSCH

Mathematician who broke new ground

Professor Kurt Hirsch, algebraist of international stature, who was Professor of Pure Mathematics at Queen Mary College, London, from 1957 to 1973, died yesterday. He was 80.

Kurt August Hirsch was born in Berlin on January 12, 1906. He was educated at Berlin University, where he belonged to the circle of gifted students around Issai Schur, an original and influential mathematician.

After obtaining his doctorate in 1930 Hirsch worked as a journalist for the *Vossische Zeitung* and *Staats und Gelehrten Sachen*, at that time a prestigious newspaper and one of the oldest dailies.

He was given a full page to fill every week in any way he wished: he wrote on science and philosophy. A friend and fellow journalist, who also wrote on science, was Arthur Koestler.

The Nazis closed the *Vossische Zeitung* in March 1934, and the next month Hirsch was on his way to England. He now had to make a new career, continuing with a career in journalism or devoting himself fully to mathematics.

He chose mathematics and went to King's College, Cambridge, to undertake research in group theory. He took his second doctorate in 1937.

Officially he was a student of Philip Hall, who was at that time first establishing himself as one of the best group theorists in the world. Hirsch always retained close links with his teacher.

His first important papers stem from his Cambridge years. They opened up a new area in group theory: the study of soluble groups with modular condition.

It was discovered much later, in the 1950s and 1960s, that these groups were precisely the soluble matrix groups with coefficients in the rational integers. As such they were of considerable importance in topology (a mathematical branch of geometry) and other areas of mathematics well away from pure group theory.

From 1938 to 1947 he taught at University College, Leicester (now Leicester University); and from 1948 to 1951 at King's College, Newcastle (now Newcastle University). In the latter year he went to Queen Mary College as reader in pure mathematics, and was appointed professor six years later.

His influence on the teaching of mathematics at the college was enormous. He was a leading force in establishing a long overdue modernization of the teaching syllabus, and he set in motion an organized programme of postgraduate teaching and activities in modern algebra.

Above all, he built up the mathematics department into a first-class institution.

But Brown had already published the novel that made his name, *A Walk in the Sun*, in 1944. A graphic description of the tribulations of an American infantry platoon on the Salerno beachhead, this made a just, vivid film of the same title (1946).

His war poems, which also drew their inspiration from the experiences of the American army in Italy, conveyed the same pungent sense of battlefield reality.

After the war Brown was busy as writer or co-writer on a number of Hollywood movies, notably *Arch of Triumph* (1948), a version of Remarque's novel; *Sons of Two Jims* (1949); and *Ocean's Eleven* (1960).

He continued to write novels, too. Among these was *The Stars in their Courses*, which successfully transferred to the cinema screen as *El Dorado*, a movie not unfairly described as "a rambunctious lament for the good old days of the bad old West".

It was perhaps inevitable that the American film industry's attempt to make Dreiser's great masterpiece palatable to the general should not wear well. The prose of *An American Tragedy* has an obdurate integrity which does not lend itself to the pleasing sentiment in which Hollywood trades. Nevertheless *A Place in the Sun* reduced tragedy to melodrama, it was much acclaimed, and won Brown and his co-writer, Maurice Wilson, an Oscar in 1951.

In the 1960s he and his wife, June, moved to Mexico where he hoped to find solitude. He did not, but among the novels he wrote there was *A Quiet Place to Work*, which was a humorous comment on precisely that.

He leaves his widow and a son.

MR HARRY BROWN

Dr E. Cuyler Hammond, biologist and epidemiologist, who spent a lifetime investigating links between cigarette-smoking and lung cancer, died on November 3. He was 74.

Edward Cuyler Hammond was born at Baltimore on June 14, 1912. He was educated at Yale, first studying physics but switching to biology, and at Johns Hopkins where he earned a doctorate in epidemiology.

From 1938 to 1942 he worked at the National Institute of Health as a statistician in the industrial hygiene division. For the rest of the war he served as health analyst and statistician to both the Army and the Navy.

After the war he joined the American Cancer Society (ACS) as director of epidemiology and statistical research, a post he held for the next three decades. From 1953 to 1958 he was also professor of biometry at Yale.

Hammond's first major study was published in 1952. Using a sample of 180,000 men, the findings showed cigarette-smokers running a greater risk of lung cancer.

The scope of the research was widened to include other cancers and heart disease, this time among women as well as men. He concluded that giving up cigarettes reduced the risks.

In 1959 Hammond set up a force of 60,000 volunteers to gather data on the habits of more than one million Americans. During the 1960s he published further studies on the health of workers exposed to asbestos and vinyl chloride who also smoked.

EDDIE "LOCKJAW" DAVIS

Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, the jazz saxophonist, died in Las Vegas on November 3, at the age of 63.

He had a reputation as one of the most aggressive tenor sax-players in modern jazz, and the big sound of which he was capable - combined perhaps with his bizarre nickname - tended to raise in audiences who had not previously heard him the expectation of a relentless attack on his material.

But this was to do him less than justice. Besides a raucous honking style he was capable of great subtlety. And in another mood he was one of the great exponents of the well-nigh extinct art of tender ballad playing.

In 1955 he formed a trio with the organist, Shirley Scott, but he found time to tour Britain and France with Basie. His trio also undertook several long engagements in the 1960s and 1970s.

There he was managing director from 1958 to 1965 and chairman from then until his retirement in 1969.

PROFESSOR ALBERT von SZENT-GYÖRGYI

Professor T. F. Slater writes: Your obituary of Albert von Szent-Györgyi (October 27) drew attention to many important aspects of his very productive, long and exciting life. Some features of his work during the past 15 years or so were somewhat neglected, however, and I believe they should be noted as additional evidence of his creativity until the end of his life.

In the mid-1970s he became closely associated with the National Foundation for Cancer Research (NFCR) as its scientific director and in this capacity, stimulated and attracted many scientists from different disciplines and countries to collaborate.

In this way he created what he called a "laboratory without walls": scientists in up to 70 laboratories in 15 countries working together on cancer research. The success of these collaborations owed much to his personal charisma and acute scientific intuition. Included in this large group

one of the most respected research schools in algebra in the country. He at first achieved this by appointing only algebraists to new positions, holding that any respectable mathematician, whatever his special interests, must be able to teach the entire undergraduate curriculum (an obvious idea now, but not so in 1951).

He also opened the doors to as many visitors from abroad as possible. He travelled widely, thereby attracting many distinguished mathematicians back to London. He served to the council of the London Mathematical Society for a number of years, and was twice vice-president.

As the editor of *Russian Mathematical Surveys* (he could read but not speak the language), he brought to the English-speaking mathematicians the translated works of their Soviet counterparts.

Hirsch's infectious enthusiasm for mathematics made him an effective teacher. His warm and welcoming nature, coupled with an astute perception of people, enabled him to create at the college a friendly and stimulating atmosphere. He was a skilled chess player and an accomplished cook, and he and his wife entertained lavishly.

His wife, Elsa Brühl, whom he married in 1928, died in 1980. He is survived by their son and two daughters.

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He leaves his widow and a son.

Following his retirement from the ACS in 1977 he taught epidemiology at the environmental sciences laboratory of Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan, including several from China.

He married, in 1948, Marian E. Thomas, who died in 1970. His second wife, Katharine S. Redmond, whom he married in 1972, survives him together with three sons of his first marriage.

Basie's club in New York. Davis was inevitably compared to his predecessor with the great Coleman Hawkins. Certainly he learned a great deal from his elder, and incorporated elements of his style.

But he was not a mere imitator, as became clear when he teamed up with him to play and record. The result was an intelligent dialogue, between sax players of widely different personality, pleasantly free from any attempt, by either, to set the other down.

A new generation of audiences was beguiled by him at Ronnie Scott's Club, where he played, again on tour, in the 1960s and 1970s.

She recorded hit after hit with musicians like Louis Armstrong, Sidney Bechet and "King" Oliver, but turned to gospel music in the late 1930s after the deaths of her gambler husband, Matt Wallace, and her brother.

She sang gospel for the next 30 years, but in 1965 she was coaxed back to jazz and blues by music researchers who found her voice as strong as ever.

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WEAR YOUR POPPY WITH PRIDE

REMEMBER, THE BEST WAY TO HONOUR THE DEAD IS TO CARE FOR THE LIVING

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY NOV. 9th.

Sensor swap clue to moths' mating

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The ability of a male moth to find a female at a range of several miles, by detecting a few molecules of a sex pheromone, has been explained by a biochemical mechanism now known as a pheromone sensor. The sensor, which has earned the insect a place in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

It took nearly 100 years for scientists to isolate the most powerful known sex attractant from the time their existence was suggested by observations of the moth, *Plutella maculipennis*, on male-seeking behaviour.

Subsequently, pheromones of many species have been identified. But their effect is a sex-specific behaviour.

The antennae of the female lack the tiny mechanical detector that is stimulated by a pheromone.

However, in the latest experiments by Dr Anne Schneidman of Yale University, and colleagues at Arizona University, the pheromone sensor of

the male has been transplanted to the female moth. The delicate transfer was done at the larval stage, when the cells which will later develop into the antennae of the adult are replaced. More than 100 moths were modified.

The observations by the first naturalists were of Europe's biggest and most richly coloured moth, the Great Peacock, which was bred at a time when it was thought that the house was besieged by many "specific" males.

In the latest tests, the male was carried on an artificial breeze in a wind tunnel. However, they were not coming from a female. They came from objects such as integrated leaves. Although females with modified antennae flew to these objects, they retained their normal reproductive patterns as well.

Nature Vol 323, p. 801-803, 1986

Science report

Sensor swap clue to moths' mating

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The ability of a male moth to find a female at a range of several miles, by detecting a few molecules of a sex pheromone, has been explained by a biochemical mechanism now



Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1294.3 (+0.2)
FT-SE 100
1637.7 (-1.50)
Bargains
32686 (36712)
USM (Datastream)
126.98 (+0.68)

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.4145 (+0.0035)
W German mark
2.9096 (-0.0013)
Trade-weighted
68.6 (-0.1)

Montagu defection

Barclays de Zotte Wedd has added to its capital markets capability by recruiting a Eurobond trading team from Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank. It is the first mass defection of a dealing team to a different bank since Big Bang a week ago.

The team is headed by Mr Alan Reid, who was a Samuel Montagu director and now becomes head of trading in BZW's international capital markets division. He is bringing with him three dollar Eurobond dealers and two sterling Eurobond dealers.

Until now, BZW has had virtually no involvement in the secondary Eurobond market.

This is the latest in a series of moves by Mr Ken Green, head of the international capital markets division, to broaden BZW's involvement in capital markets. The conglomerate has chosen a policy of acquisition to achieve this aim which may include the purchase of a primary dealership in the US.

Tempus, page 24

Tempus, page 24

Tempus, page 24

Tempus, page 24

Tempus, page 24

Tempus, page 24

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Tempus, page 24

Tempus, page 24

Regan rules himself out of running for Fed job

**From Bailey Morris
Washington**

First for Mrs Fields

Last year Mrs Fields —

Together they have set up a new firm, Mrs Fields Cookies Far East Ltd, with an initial issued share capital of HK\$3 million (£272,727).

He did revive speculation, however, that Mr Volcker is not likely to be reappointed.

Asked about the chances of another Volcker term, Mr. Reagan said: "It is too early to tell".

Following the appointment by President Reagan of five of

In addition, the Treasury Secretary, Mr. James Baker, has been considered a possible replacement but his associates say it is unlikely he would accept such an offer, choosing instead to return to politics in the campaign of Vice President George Bush for the presidency in 1988.

Hogg buys two estate agencies

It is buying Anscombe & Ringland with eight offices in central London and Russell, Baldwin & Bright with 14 branches in Herefordshire. Hogg is the ninth largest estate agency group in Britain.

Hogg intends to continue buying agencies and in time may combine them with the larger travel outlets. It does not foresee any dilution in earnings in the current financial year.

It announced its first move into the estate agency business in July and plans to sell mortgages, endowment policies, life cover and personal insurance policies as well as houses. It sees the business as a natural extension of its personal financial operations.

Profit-taking hits Dow

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 8.91 to

| | Nov 3 | Oct 31 | | Nov 3 | Oct 31 | | Nov 3 | Oct 31 |
|-----|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|
| AMR | 59 | 56% | Firestone | 28% | 28% | Pfizer | 60% | 59% |

[illegible]

COMPANY NEWS

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BASE LENDING RATES

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| AWN | 11.00% |
| Aden & Company | 11.00% |
| CBCL | 11.00% |
| Global Savings | 12.45% |
| Co-operative Credit | 11.00% |
| Consolidated Bank | 11.00% |
| C. Hoare & Co | 11.00% |
| Hong Kong & Shanghai | 11.00% |
| Yong Bank | 11.00% |
| New Westminster | 11.00% |
| Lloyds Bank of Scotland | 10.00% |
| Tatler | 11.00% |
| Cashmere NA | 11.00% |

† Mortgage Base Rate:

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Barratt beset by bid talk as Kuwaitis sell 11% stake

By Carol Leonard

A question mark was hanging over the independence of Barratt Developments, the house building group, last night after the Kuwait Investment Office sold its 11 per cent stake.

The stake, worth about £30 million, is thought to have been picked up by an American market-maker and is said to be still sitting on their books.

Some market men claimed that the stake had been passed on in two halves to non-institutional buyers and there was even talk that Blue Circle, the cement group, may have picked up a piece equivalent to about 3 per cent.

Blue Circle later denied this. Mr Robert James, group finance director of Barratt, confirmed the stake had been sold but said he had no idea who had bought it. Barratt shares edged up steadily on the talk and closed 4p higher at 152p.

City experts estimate that if the activity were to result in a bid it would have to be at around the 220p level - valuing Barratt at as much as £375 million.

Elsewhere in the stock market had another firm day, despite worse-than-expected reserve figures for October. The FT 30 share index closed up 0.2, off its highest level of the day, at 1294.3. The broader based FT-SE 100 index closed a touch easier, down 1.5 at 1637.7.

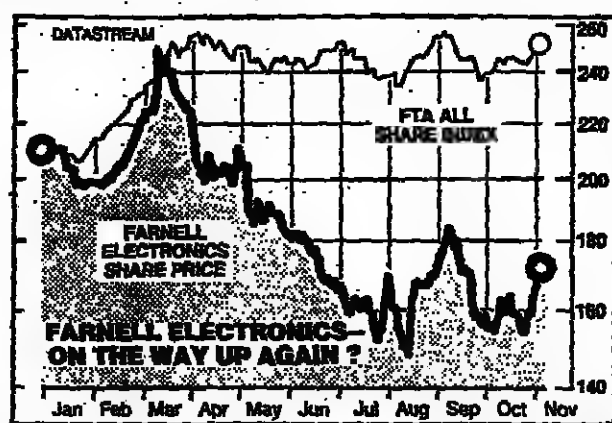
Gilt opened easier but rallied before the close to finish with scattered rises of 2 1/2 across the board.

Hanson Trust was the highest volume equity, notching up a total of 13 million shares, mostly on American buying on the ADR facility in operation. Its shares firmed 2p to 204p. ICI eased 3p to 310p. BTR 3p to 289p and British Telecom 2p to 190p.

Cadbury Schweppes firmed 3p to 193p. Farnell Electronics, the Leeds manufacturer and distributor of electronic and electrical equipment, began a series of City presentations, with Mr Henry Elstone, the finance director, talking to 10 institutional fund managers at Chase Securities in the morning and lunching with Gilbert Elliott, another firm of stockbrokers.

Glaxo, the big pharmaceutical company, slipped 6p to 94p and would be in for a further battering today after a presentation to New York analysts by the American drug group Merck on its new anti-ulcer drug, Pepcid. Pepcid, a rival to Glaxo's Zantac, will be launched on the US market soon. Some British analysts say the threat of Pepcid has already been fully discounted.

The company has seen its share price tumble from a high of 250p earlier this year - yesterday it firmed 6p to 177p - amid worries about the state of the semi-conductor market, and now it is trying to rebuild its City image.



"They think they have given too gloomy an impression to the City," said Mr Richard Dyett, an analyst at Chase. "They had grown at the rate of 30 per cent per annum for more than 20 years, until last year when the semi-conductor market collapsed. The message they are now giving out is that we should now see an annual growth rate of 12.5 per cent, which is less than it was but still very respectable."

Chase is forecasting profits of £23.5 million for this year, against £22.1 million last time, and thinks it might beat that forecast.

"If it does, it will be the first electronic parts distributor to beat a City forecast for 18 months," Mr Dyett said.

BAT Industries, the tobacco group, went up 12p to 480p, on American buying after the announcement of third-quarter results from its Brazilian subsidiary, Souza Cruz. A total of 6.5 million BAT shares went through the market.

Oil eased a few pennies across the board, despite continued talk that the Saudis want to push the price up to \$18 a barrel. Some oil experts think an increase to such a level might be possible in perhaps six months time, provided the Saudis restrain the other Opec members. Brent crude for December delivery eased 60 cents a barrel to \$14.05.

Shell lost 9p to 922p, BP and British fell 3p to 685p and 145p respectively. Enterprise lost 2p to 150p and ICG Gas 1p to 582p.

Large lines of stock in composite insurers changed hands as investors took profits ahead of their results on Wednesday and Thursday next week. Trade Indemnity slipped 3p to 230p, Royal Insurance 4p to 820p and General Accident a penny to 853p.

Commercial Union was down 5p to 283p after the news broke in London yesterday that a Californian court had awarded \$26 million

(£18.4 million) damages against the company to a child who fell out of a jeep and is now brain damaged and paralysed from the waist down. The mother of the child sued the manufacturer of the jeep who was insured with CU. CU plans to appeal and London analysts estimate that the settlement may eventually cost it about £10 million.

The expected white knight consortium bid for the insurance broker CE Heath failed to materialize, although some say it may still happen. Heath, down 2p at 344p, is on the receiving end of an unwelcome £182 million bid from PWS Holdings.

Any consortium rescue package would almost certainly involve Hambros Bank.

Parsons Corbin, the broker, has published a buy circular on Parkfield Group, the engineering and electrical distribution firm based in the US. It forecasts profits of £8.75 million for the current year, against £23.35 million last time, putting it on a prospective p/e of 10.4. Its shares, up from 83p this year, firmed another 12p to 192p.

which, before the PWS bid had planned to merge its Fieldings insurance subsidiary with Heath. PWS also slipped a couple of pence to 307p.

Banks were dull with the partly-paid TSB shares slipping 14p to 804p. Barclays slid 6p to 481p, National Westminster 4p to 523p. Royal Bank of Scotland 3p to 315p. Midland and Lloyds firmed a penny to 553p and 423p respectively.

Sears was once again the most actively traded stock and the second highest volume stock in the market, with another 6 million shares sold and 6 million bought, notching up a total volume of 12 million shares. Its shares slipped 24p to 1374p.

Most other retailers went better. GMS ordinary shares gained 13p to 1463p. Harris Queensway 11p to 215p. Body Shop 3p to 670p. Ward White 5p to 315p. Storehouse 4p to 339p and Woolworth 3p to 643p.

Beecham, the Lucozade pharmaceuticals combine, eased a penny to 439p, despite a profits forecast up-grading by W Greenwell, the broker. Mr Ian White, an analyst at Greenwell, has increased his forecast for the full year by £25 million to £365 million to allow for currency adjustments.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet
Japanese throw US rivals off balance

The biggest threat to the liberalization of capital markets and the boom in financial services is protectionism. It is this, I suggest, that makes the Japanese more determined than ever to be inside the American fence before there is any chance of its being turned into a 10ft wall.

Already the Japanese banks and securities houses have a formidable presence in the United States, as they do in this country. Their power was demonstrated for all to see at the May auctions of US Treasury debt, when they tactically outmanoeuvred the New York giants and proceeded to take them to the cleaners. Life for the clever, complacent American houses would never be the same again. Either they had to join them (Goldman Sachs and Sumitomo) or learn to play the game according to Japanese rules. But these things all take time.

Yesterday, as the November auctions got under way, the New York bond market was in a lather of uncertainty. Would the Japanese houses bid high or low, and how strong? Worse, might they bid for only the three-year and 10-year maturities, thus perhaps leaving the natives with the tricky, more volatile 30-year long bonds? And if that happened, would the Japanese really screw them to the wall by manipulating the dollar-yen rate in the foreign exchange market?

There is an understanding on the "right" exchange rate in present conditions between the Japanese and the Americans but what if the rate is really tested - and fails to stand up? A dollar fall to below 150 yen might easily provoke a sell-off in the US bond market because of fears of what a collapsing dollar would mean for the American inflation rate.

None of this may happen. The debt auctions might go swimmingly, with everyone making money. But the undercurrent of uncertainty about the intentions of the inscrutable Orientals would remain. And the rumours that the Japanese securities houses, with the mighty Nomura in the lead, are out to damage their New York counterparts in preparation for taking over will also continue to swirl and eddy. "It is the story of Japan and the world motorcycle industry all over again" was the useful comment of one observer.

The doubts remain

Meanwhile back in what some prefer to think of as the real world, Americans were voting in their customary disappointing numbers. Elections always confuse underlying economic realities. And the mid-term elections have been no exception. But today it is back to business.

The US economy has given the impression of having waved goodbye to the uncertainties of a few months

ago. The trade deficit, according to last week's figures, has started to turn the corner. Growth, boosted by a car sales boom, appears to be there. And the dollar, judging by the Baker-Miyazawa currency/interest rate deal, does not need to fall any further.

The true picture is not quite as rosy. Growth in the American economy has had a temporary boost which may last until the end of the year. But there is no evidence of a return to the robust expansion of a couple of years ago.

The trade figures, similarly, contained both good and bad news. There was an unexpected narrowing of the trade deficit to \$12.6 billion in September, although both exports and imports were weak and the J-curve may not have shortened in duration as much as appeared.

In several respects, growth in the US economy has been brought forward. The tax reform bill will remove individuals' ability to offset local sales tax against income tax, and so some of the spending on cars and "big-ticket" consumer purchases is, understandably, being rushed in before the end of the year.

The key question is whether the Federal Reserve, faced with a picture of impending economic weakness, will move early or later to cut the discount rate.

David Morrison of Goldman Sachs suggests that the Fed will not feel obliged to act on rates until economic weakness in the US has become fairly obvious again, and that is unlikely to be until the first quarter of next year. But Geoffrey Dennis at James Capel thinks that the Fed will anticipate next year's weakness and act before the year-end.

It is a fine judgment, and one that would be a lot easier if the implications of the agreement between Japan and the United States, unveiled last week, were a little clearer. James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, has played off his two constituencies - the domestic political and the international financial - against one another quite well.

The yen-dollar deal has been seen outside the US as a currency stabilizing arrangement, but in home-town America is regarded as an admission by foreigners that they have been too cautious on stimulating growth in the world economy. On either version, lower interest rates should be on the way in the United States, assuming that US industry does not want to live with a 170-180 rate against the yen again.

The earliest indication on timing will come with the employment figures on Friday. A fall in manufacturing employment last month, following September's 38,000 drop, could be convincing evidence that post-election weakness has come sooner rather than later.

ALPHA STOCKS

These prices are as at 6.45pm

| 1986 | High | Low | Company | Price | Chg | Volume | 1986 | High | Low | Company | Price | Chg | Volume |
|------|------|-----|-------------------|---------|-----|--------|------|-------|-------|---------|---------|------|--------|
| 1986 | High | Low | Company | Price | Chg | Volume | 1986 | High | Low | Company | Price | Chg | Volume |
| 388 | 248 | 248 | Allied-Lyons | 307.912 | -8 | 13.8 | 4.4 | 141.1 | 855 | 114784 | 104.10p | - | 42.8 |
| 174 | 125 | 125 | ASDA-M | 184.188 | -4 | 4.5 | 2.7 | 18.1 | 1108 | 388 | 388 | - | 12.7 |
| 382 | 237 | 237 | BTR | 289.289 | -3 | 8.8 | 3.4 | 26.1 | 1209 | 381 | 318 | 1209 | 17.8 |
| 485 | 305 | 305 | BAT | 485.485 | +20 | 18.4 | 3.8 | 12.7 | 10000 | 248 | 278 | 248 | 10.0 |
| 580 | 429 | 429 | Barclays | 478.485 | -6 | 28.1 | 5.8 | 7.0 | 325 | 289 | 188 | 289 | 1.8 |
| 940 | 920 | 920 | Beas | 740.740 | -7 | 21.7 | 2.9 | 15.8 | 147 | 434 | 385 | 434 | 1.0 |
| 445 | 218 | 218 | Beecham | 428.428 | -1 | 17.1 | 3.5 | 18.2 | 1800 | 238 | 185 | 238 | 1.0 |
| 728 | 528 | 528 | Blue Circle | 607.615 | -1 | 30.0 | 4.8 | 10.0 | 2300 | 371 | 408 | 371 | 1.0 |
| 396 | 277 | 277 | BDO | 336.341 | -1 | 14.1 | 4.1 | 12.8 | 820 | 231 | 103 | 231 | 1.0 |
| 289 | 170 | 170 | Boots | 238.238 | +2 | 10.1 | 4.5 | 15.4 | 8400 | 283 | 428 | 283 | 1.0 |
| 589 | 418 | 418 | By Arrangement | 428.428 | -1 | 28.4 | 4.8 | 10.0 | 2300 | 371 | 408 | 371 | 1.0 |
| 708 | 518 | 518 | By Arrangement | 603.603 | -1 | 28.4 | 4.8 | 10.0 | 2300 | 371 | 408 | 371 | 1.0 |
| 280 | 177 | 177 | By Arrangement | 188.181 | -2 | 10.7 | 5.8 | 11.1 | 9400 | 242 | 718 | 242 | 1.0 |
| 210 | 88 | 88 | Cell | 144.147 | -2 | 8.2 | 8.4 | 8.8 | 4500 | 254 | 148 | 254 | 1.0 |
| 358 | 235 | 235 | Cell | 288.288 | -2 | 8.2 | 8.4 | 8.8 | 4500 | 254 | 148 | 254 | 1.0 |
| 589 | 418 | 418 | Cell | 428.428 | -1 | 28.4 | 4.8 | 10.0 | 2300 | 371 | 408 | 371 | 1.0 |
| 188 | 142 | 142 | Cadbury Schweppes | 191.194 | +3 | 8.7 | 4.5 | 28.8 | 5200 | 347 | 345 | 347 | 1.0 |
| 388 | 228 | 228 | Cell | 278.282 | -2 | 17.4 | 3.2 | 14.1 | 2400 | 781 | 811 | 781 | 1.0 |
| 704 | 408 | 408 | Cell | 640.640 | -4 | 38.0 | 6.4 | 14.4 | 728 | 867 | 867 | 867 | 1.0 |
| 389 | 180 | 180 | Cell | 318.318 | +9 | 22.9 | 2.9 | 30.7 | 2600 | 428 | 344 | 428 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 620 | 408 | 408 | Cell | 877.882 | -1 | 8.4 | 1.4 | 28.8 | 8400 | 418 | 321 | 418 | 1.0 |
| 984 | 701 | 701 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 138 | 128 | 128 | Cell | 188.178 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | 5800 | 270 | 185 | 270 | 1.0 |
| 428 | 218 | 218 | Cell | 388.388 | -4 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 30.3 | 1800 | 148 | 102 | 148 | 1.0 |
| 114 | 785 | 785 | Cell | 948.948 | -1 | 84.8 | 4.1 | 24.2 | | | | | |

FUTURES AND OPTIONS

Futures surge in Sydney
defies laws of gravity

By Richard Lander

Things tend to happen the wrong way round in Australia, apart from the bath water, whose anticlockwise passage down the plughole fascinates visitors from the northern hemisphere.

Some of the phenomena cannot be explained by the laws of nature. For instance, when a conservative government was in power here, the economy and financial sector were protected by controls and regulations more usually associated with socialist countries. The Labour Party, which might have been expected to build on these when it swept to power in 1983, proceeded to abolish virtually all of them.

The development and growth of the Sydney Futures Exchange (SFE) presents a similar tale of contrary timing. After more than 20 years of slow and unspectacular progress trading mostly agricultural commodities while the Australian economy prospered, the SFE has burst forth as a leading player in the world's non-American financial futures markets at a time of almost unparalleled crisis in the domestic economy.

In 1984 the Exchange traded 518,000 contracts, a figure that swelled to 1.22 million last year. In the first nine months of 1986, it has notched up 2.5 million contracts. Now the SFE processes a million trades every three months.

Of course, deregulation and the SFE's success are connected. The floating of the Australian dollar and the abolition of exchange controls have exposed the Australian financial markets to the capriciousness of international money flows. Over the past 18 months, prime interest

rates have risen from 11 per cent to as high as 21 per cent while the Australian dollar has sunk, rather than floated, losing 40 per cent in trade-weighted terms. Volatility in underlying markets, the prime ingredient of any futures market, has not been in short supply.

All this has been done in business in purely domestic products, with Australian treasury bonds and 90-day bank-notes futures spearheading the phenomenal expansion, strongly backed by an active share index contract.

Last week, the SFE opened its stall to the outside world with the inauguration of its foreign contract, in US treasury bonds. Two more, in Euro-dollar deposits and gold, are to open within the next three weeks.

Sydney is making its thrust into overseas contracts through co-operation with New York Comex and the London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe).

Its two interest rate contracts are identical and fungible with existing Liffe contracts, while the gold contract will be similarly matched with Comex.

Hopes are pinned on the T-bond contract where Sydney hopes to take advantage of its time-zone location. Business starts one hour after trading in Chicago closes and ends minutes before Liffe's traders don their multi-coloured jackets and clear their throats for a day's screaming in the pits. SFE members are being asked to consider extending their working day by two hours to

create a full 24-hour market. But traders would need to be persuaded that there is sufficient profit potential before agreeing to such a move.

Mr Les Hoskins, the Exchange's chief executive, reckons no more than 20 per cent of bond business will come from domestic users. Of the remainder, he is looking for overflow business from Chicago and London and hedge and speculative buying from players in the huge physical market in bonds in Tokyo.

Although Japanese securities houses face obstacles when it comes to trading in foreign futures markets, Mr Hoskins reckons there should be good demand from the American investment banks which are active in Tokyo. A number of these, which have established a presence in Sydney since the Labour government deregulated the banking system, are discussing joining the Exchange.

If the SFE does prosper with its new ventures, it will be the first market in the Asian time zone to tackle international financial futures successfully. This year Hong Kong has restarted with index futures after a lacklustre gold contract in the early 1980s. The Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex) has never achieved great volumes in spite of being linked to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) since its birth in 1984.

Mr Hoskins and other SFE officials are confident Sydney can lick Singapore. Among the advantages they cite for Australia are language, a westernized legal and political system and a futures trading community that has been in place since 1960.

Hopkinsons sets
another record

COMPANY NEWS

Hopkinsons Holdings, the Huddersfield valve manufacturer, has chalked up another set of record profits.

At the half-year stage pretax profits were up 31 per cent to £4.08 million on turnover 17.6 per cent ahead at almost £38 million.

The interim dividend is 2.75p a share compared with 2p last time.

In the first half, all the trading subsidiaries traded at a profit, with Bryan Donkin, supplier of valves to the gas industry, continuing to make strong progress.

AMERISE INVESTMENT TRUST: The asset value as at October 31 per cent capital share was 489.43p (previous month 466.58p).

ABERFOYLE HOLDINGS: No interim dividend. Results for the six months to June 30. Figures in £000s: turnover 3,578 (4,084). Profit before interest and tax 896 (305). Net interest payable 138 (167). Share of loss in associated company 758 (158). Pretax profit 754 (91). Tax overheads 47 (23). Profit after tax 712 (58). Minorities 252 (65). Extraordinary dividend nil (37). Earnings per share 1.32p (nil).

IF PACIFIC WARRANT COMPANY: Net asset value as at October 31 per cent ordinary share was 233.73p.

AKZO: Third quarter results, figures in guilders 000s. Net sales 3,745.1 or £1,140 million (4,347.3). Operating income 363.1 (346.2). Earnings of consolidated companies from normal operations after taxes 208.5 (183.3). Earnings from non-consolidated companies 1.2 (26.7). Extraordinary credits 1.2 (2.2). Minority interest 16.1 (20.2). Net income 195.3 (191.8). Earnings per share 4.88 guilders (4.83 guilders).

CANNON STREET INVESTMENTS: The company has acquired Bekkers Beheer, of Holland, through its Dutch holding company, Cannon Street European Holdings. The initial cash consideration is £166,750,000 (£2,093,000), and there will be additional payments dependent on Bekkers' future profits.

BROWN SHIPLEY HOLDINGS: The acquisition of St. Paul's Finance and Investment Co has been completed. The consideration is the issue of 301,321 Brown Shipley shares.

FITCH LOVELL: The company has acquired the whole of the issued share capital of Peter J. Osborn (Osborns) and the outstanding 45 per cent of P. J. Osborn (Packings) not already owned by the Fitch Lovell group or by Osborns, together with the leasehold premises occupied by Osborns and Osborn (Packings) in Hampshire and certain plant and equipment used by Osborn (Packings).

ASTURBY & MADELEY HOLDINGS: Agreement has been reached for the purchase of British Holdings Co (Manchester) for £710,000. The consideration will be with £259,000 cash and the issue of 83,459 shares.

HANIMEX CORPORATION: The chairman has written to shareholders, saying that the Chase Corporation has made an offer for all the Hanimex ordinary shares at \$1.15 a share. He says that, while Hanimex welcomes Chase as a significant shareholder, the directors, after taking advice, have concluded that it is not a fair and reasonable price for control of the company.

MONEY MARKET AND GOLD

Base Rates %
Bank of England 11%
Discount Rate 10%
Overnight Money 10%
Three Month 10%
Six Month 10%
One Year 10%
Two Year 10%
Three Year 10%
Four Year 10%
Five Year 10%

Prime Bank (Discount %)
1 month 10%
3 month 10%
6 month 10%
12 month 10%
18 month 10%
24 month 10%
36 month 10%
48 month 10%
60 month 10%

Local Authority Deposits (%)
2 days 10%
1 month 10%
3 months 10%
6 months 10%
12 months 10%

Local Authority Bonds (%)
1 month 10%
3 months 10%
6 months 10%
12 months 10%

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %
1 month 5-10%
3 months 5-10%
6 months 5-10%
12 months 5-10%

GOLD
Gold 408.25-408.75
Kruggerand (per coin) 408.00-408.50
Sovereign (113.50)
Pound (113.50)
Dollar (113.50)
Yen (113.50)
Sterling (113.50)
Swiss (113.50)
Italian (113.50)
French (113.50)
German (113.50)
Spanish (113.50)
Portuguese (113.50)
Greek (113.50)
Turkish (113.50)
Indian (113.50)
Japanese (113.50)
Australian (113.50)
New Zealand (113.50)
South African (113.50)
Mexican (113.50)
Brazilian (113.50)
Argentine (113.50)
Chilean (113.50)
Colombian (113.50)
Cuban (113.50)
Czech (113.50)
Danish (113.50)
Dutch (113.50)
Finnish (113.50)
Irish (113.50)
Norwegian (113.50)
Polish (113.50)
Romanian (113.50)
Russian (113.50)
Soviet (113.50)
Swedish (113.50)
Swiss (113.50)
Thai (113.50)
West German (113.50)
Yugoslavian (113.50)

ECGD
Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period October 5, 1986 to October 31, 1986 inclusive 11.257 per cent.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS
Calls
Series Jan Apr Jul Oct Dec Mar Jun
Allied Lyons (198) 300 35 35 35 35 35 35
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Newcomer GT dazzles
with interim results

GT Management can be well satisfied with its first set of results since coming to market. Pretax profits nearly trebled from £2.2 million to £6 million for the six months to September 30 on turnover up 65 per cent to £18.8 million.

Funds under management grew by 15 per cent from £3.36 billion to £3.87 billion, largely due to the rise in the market rather than the net addition of funds. Indeed, such has been the success of its management of Edis (Employees' Retirement Income Security Act) money that GT has effectively lost some pension money. The value of the Edis funds, the internationally invested portion of certain US corporate pension portfolios, grew to better half a proportion of the total pension fund, causing the trustees to withdraw some of the monies back to the US.

In the results statement, released yesterday, GT revealed the high cost of saving the Berry Trust from being swallowed by the Ensign Trust, one of the funds in the Merchant Navy Pension Fund stable. GT provided £882,000 in the first half of this year for the diminution in value of its 2 million Berry Trust shares which it used to ward off Ensign's attack.

The charge was made below the line and was more than matched by profits on disposals of group investments in Japan to give an extraordinary gain of £246,000. However, we may not have heard the last of Ensign as it can come back in a year's time with a new bid.

GT has been investing heavily in its development. In addition to a £2.5 million computerization programme, it is planning a big expansion in the US mutual funds business and is hoping to gain recognized investment manager status in Japan in a year's time. Both these moves will involve higher staffing.

A senior Japanese appointment has already been made, while the individual who will run the US mutual fund operation in San Francisco is in the process of being identified. GT will therefore be raising its cost base ahead of the ability to raise its income.

The second half has started well. But Japan has gone off the boil and the second six months, traditionally the

stronger half, may this year only match the first. Nigel Russell, investment trust analyst at James Capel, the stockbroker, estimates GT should make £11 million in the full year to March. This is the same as a prospective multiple of 14, similar to that of rivals such as Henderson Administration.

The shares have enjoyed a strong run over the last few weeks and look fairly priced.

Albert Fisher

For a company to issue shares which increase its market capitalization by almost 40 per cent and still see a small rise in its share price is a pretty good achievement.

In the case of Albert Fisher Group, which yesterday announced a £44.3 million raising of acquisitions, it signifies the heavy institutional demand for its paper.

Yesterday's three British acquisitions expand the company's product range and give it a firmer foothold in the catering industry as well as widening its British client base. The opportunities for links with its existing British food division look good.

The US purchase will develop the company's Florida base, established through the recent acquisition of Tavilla and the existing Carnival Fruit Company subsidiary.

Apart from the geographical synergy involved in the deal, it takes Albert Fisher more into the value-added side of the fresh fruit and vegetable business, where margins are higher. The company is looking to develop this side of the business.

Yesterday's acquisitions leave the company with £45 million net tangible worth free of borrowings. Albert

Fisher would be comfortable with £30 million borrowings so there could well be more action to come.

Avis Europe

Dealings in Avis Europe start on the stock market tomorrow. But signs are ominous after one third of the shares were left in the hands of underwriters.

However, the sponsors' disappointment is the investing public's opportunity. Shares in the grey market slipped further yesterday. Cleveland Securities quoted them at 210p to 220p against an offer price of 250p. At this level they may be worth buying.

Analysts never doubted the strength of the company, but thought the shares were too highly priced. British investors concurred and gave the issue a big raspberry.

At 250p the prospective p/e ratio would be 13.9 against an average in the motor sector of 8 or 9. Certainly Avis deserves a healthy premium to the sector, but not as healthy as it awarded itself.

The sponsors' eagerness not to have Avis classed a motor stock and therefore lumped with manufacturers seems to have backfired. Even as an industrial stock a historic p/e of 17.9 is no giveaway.

However, the company is offering the prospect of at least 15 per cent annual compound growth. James Capel, the stockbroker, reckons the shares should be bought up to the 230p to 235p level and stored as a long-term core investment.

Any edging towards the 250p price is likely to spur a rush of selling for the next few months at least.

RECENT ISSUES
Marborough Tech (110p) 135
Meca Leisure (135p) 151-1
Miller & Saunders (100p) 174-2
Nirvana Toms (75p) 72
Pacemac Co (50p) 94-4
Rounds (50p) 40
Ryan (110p) 102
Sander Perkins (135p) 186-3
Scott Motor (100p) 81-4
TSE Group (100p) 81-4
Thames TV (100p) 81-4
Treas 10% cpi 348.50 240-1
Whitney Macdon (100p) 184-1
Wooltons Baser (100p) 85
Yorkshire TV (120p) 165-4

RIGHTS ISSUES
Balfour N/P 7-1
Blue Arrow N/P 67-7
Brown Invest N/P 6
Crested N/P 1-4
FR Group N/P 30-9
Lithiumium N/P 21-1
Mortek Cam N/P 225
Parish (N/P) 11
Petroleum N/P 16
Rothschild N/P 42
Safes N/P 11

BIRD SEMPLE & FYFE IRELAND
The partners of
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Name _____
Address _____
A84

N M ROTHSCILD ASSET MANAGEMENT

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

| STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
| day's range | close | | |
| N York | 1.4125-1.4135 | 0.62-0.63p | 1.77-1.78p |
| London | 1.4125-1.4135 | 0.62-0.63p | 1.77-1.78p |
| Amsterd | 1.925-1.926 | 14-15p | 44-45p |
| Brussels | 60.31-60.52 | 14-15p | 44-45p |
| Frankfurt | 10.8280-10.8290 | 14-15p | 44-45p |
| Paris | 1.045-1.046 | 14-15p | 44-45p |
| Madrid | 16.40-16.51 | 14-15p | 44-45p |
| Geneva | 1.045-1.046 | 14-15p | 44-45p |
| Basel | 1.045-1.046 | 14-15p | 44-45p |
| Stockholm | 2.000-2.010 | 14-15p | 44-45p |
| Oslo | 10.6150-10.6175 | 14-15p | 44-45p |
| Paris | 9.480-9.510 | 14-15p | 44-45p |
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares fluctuate

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on October 27. Dealings end on Friday. Contango day next Monday. Settlement day November 17.
 §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices, taken at 5pm. Yield, charge and P/E are calculated on the middle price

Portfolio - Gold -

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 DAILY DIVIDEND
 £4,000

Claims required for
 +36 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Portfolio - Gold -

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

| No. | Company | Group | Calc |
|-----|------------------|---------------------|------|
| 1 | Douglas (RM) | Building Roads | |
| 2 | McCarthy & S | Building Roads | |
| 3 | Goldberg (A) | Drugs, Stores | |
| 4 | Borland | Electricals | |
| 5 | Bromley (M) | Industrial A-D | |
| 6 | Anchor Chemicals | Chemicals, Plastics | |
| 7 | Scott TV | Cinema, TV | |
| 8 | Hawker Siddeley | Industrial E-K | |
| 9 | Bilham (J) | Industrial A-D | |
| 10 | Deaunter | Industrial A-D | |
| 11 | Young 'A' | Breweries | |
| 12 | Bapak | Industrial A-D | |
| 13 | Pit Industries | Industrial E-K | |
| 14 | Waco | Paper, Print, Adv | |
| 15 | Parrell Bros | Electricals | |
| 16 | Vickers | Industrial S-Z | |
| 17 | Radiant Metal | Industrial L-R | |
| 18 | Cherry Schepers | Food | |
| 19 | Joseph (Leopold) | Textiles, Discount | |
| 20 | TVS NV | Cinema, TV | |
| 21 | Western Bros | Building Roads | |
| 22 | Concor-Roadhouse | Building Roads | |
| 23 | French (Thomas) | Industrial E-K | |
| 24 | Granada | Industrial E-K | |
| 25 | Eastern Prod | Industrial E-K | |
| 26 | Alexandra Wwear | Industrial A-D | |
| 27 | Lincroft Kilgus | Drugs, Stores | |
| 28 | Bromsgrove Inds | Industrial A-D | |
| 29 | Fogarty | Building Roads | |
| 30 | Phoenix Timber | Building Roads | |
| 31 | Wilson Connolly | Chemicals, Plastics | |
| 32 | Asda | Electricals | |
| 33 | Elas & Broad | Chemicals, Plastics | |
| 34 | Alexander Conser | Building Roads | |
| 35 | Arvis (J) & Sons | Building Roads | |
| 36 | Morgan Grenfell | Textiles, Discount | |
| 37 | Tarnam | Building Roads | |
| 38 | Flacey | Electricals | |
| 39 | Blue Circle | Building Roads | |
| 40 | Arlon | Electricals | |
| 41 | Yorkshire TV | Cinema, TV | |
| 42 | Yorkshire Chem | Chemicals, Plastics | |

Please be sure to take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £16,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Total |
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BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Rise Fall Div

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

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INDEX-LINKED

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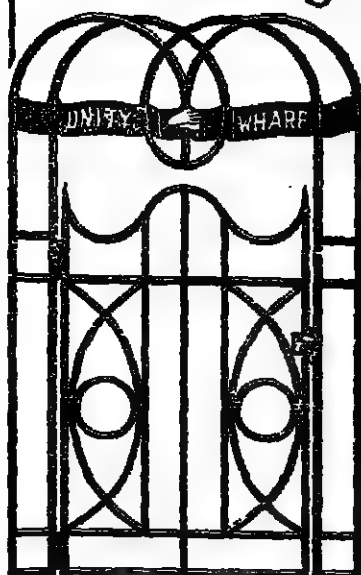
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NEW PROPERTY

"UNITY WHARF" Fascinating Dockside Warehouse Flats



and office suites by **Sellodale DEVELOPMENTS LTD**

FOR SALE: Superb newly developed luxury flats, overlooking St. Saviour's Dock close to Tower Bridge and within minutes of the City. All having immense character, with exposed brickwork and original beams.

Flats of 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, etc.

£249,000 to £275,000

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MARBLE HALLWAYS - LIFT - AUDIO-VISUAL SECURITY - DOCKSIDE BALCONIES - LUXURY KITCHENS & MARBLE BATHROOMS - NEW DECORATIONS AND CARPETS - AMPLE CUPBOARDS

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NEW HOME



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This home could cost you a lot more than the asking price. By now, it may have a long and expensive list of jobs that demand attention, some of which you may only discover after you've moved in. Here are just a few you might consider:

New Kitchen Units/Fitting £3,120

New Heating System £2,080

Additional Replacement wiring £208

More Roof Insulation £104

Redecoration/Materials £1,040

New Bathroom Suite £520

Replacement Windows £3,120

New Guttering £208

TOTAL £10,400* + VAT.

*Based on estimated average replacement cost in a 3 bedroom house

BRAND NEW HOME



1986

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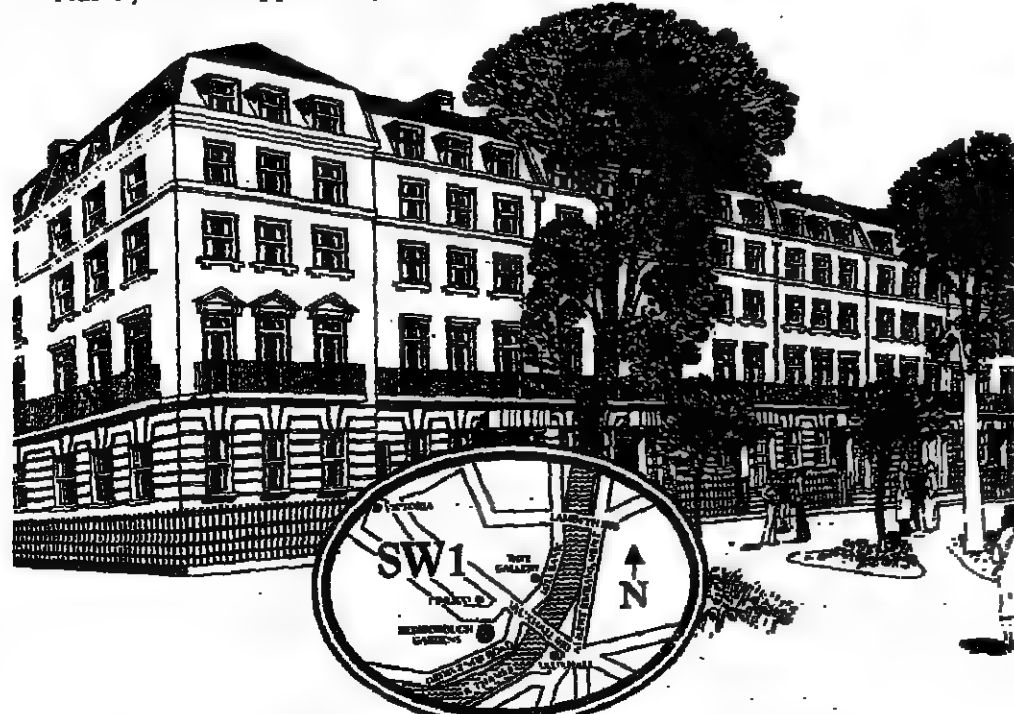
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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY/1



Barratt's Tennyson house, far left, which now has a conservatory, and, above, the more modest Kenilworth of Alfred McAlpine Homes

What every buyer needs to know

The most important service the housebuilder can provide when he presents his new house to the public is to be helpful to the customer and give him or her accurate pre-purchase information, a survey of new house buyers shows.

The survey, part of the *Housebuilder of the Year* competition run by Express Newspapers in association with the New Homes Marketing Board, reports that the next four services in order of priority are advice received on legal matters, meeting the building deadline, the condition of the house on moving-in day, and the efficiency of the builder in rectifying faults.

The first priority has remained in that position for three years, emphasizing that potential buyers need to be reassured on the facts of house buying before taking the plunge.

They are also increasingly discerning in their approach to house-buying, whether it is a first home or not, and builders, not surprisingly, are taking up the challenge of building better and more imaginatively.

To those buying older homes, it may be a surprise to know that new houses are more expensive. But statistics provided by the Nationwide Building Society show that the average for Britain is £45,000 for a new house, £40,000 for a modern house, and £35,000 for an older one.

For detached houses, the average is about £60,000 (new), £56,000 (modern) and £57,000 (older). For terraced houses the figures are £34,000, £32,000 and £29,000 respectively.

"Kerb appeal" helps to sell houses, a feature which many builders concentrate on, both in single houses and clusters. Berkely Homes, for example, is building six large detached Tudor-style properties in a wooded location in Arkley, Hertfordshire, in which each is individually designed, part rendered, part timbered with some herringbone brickwork.

The brick and tile was chosen carefully to blend into the rural atmosphere, great attention has been paid to detail and the houses cost about £395,000. David Wilson Homes, one of the award winners, operating largely in the Mid-

lands, takes the view that each buyer wants something different and, therefore, has 150 designs.

On its 800-house development at Leicester Forest East it is using all of them, from bungalow to Tudor, Georgian and Regency, and probably a few more before it is completed as new demands emerge.

Barratt's *Premier Collection* of more than 50 styles, launched last year, has now been updated and several more added. The range costs from £20,000 to more than £450,000 and at the latter end of the market - the Sovereign range - further luxury features have been added.

Barratt has noted the resurgence of interest in conservatories and has included a Victorian-style conservatory with its Tennyson four-bedroom house. Upstairs the master bedroom has a split-level bathroom with a whirlpool bath and separate shower, while the main bathroom has an adjoining sauna.

By Christopher Warman
 Property Correspondent

The Belmont is a three-bedroom bungalow which has a unusual split-level lounge, and a master bedroom with patio door leading to the garden. Mike Norton, the Barratt Group marketing director, said: "Before launching the *Premier Collection* we carried out considerable research to discover the demands and tastes of modern house-buyers. Our styles set new standards and now our architects have further improved designs and specifications."

Dulwich Gate, home of the Prime Minister, is one of Barratt's flagship developments, and now Wimpey, its rivals at the head of building affairs, has come up with what it describes as Blackheath's answer to Dulwich Gate - Mayfield, on the Cator estate in Blackheath village, entered through lodge gates to prevent through traffic.

In contrast to the predominantly Georgian and neo-Georgian architecture of the area, the houses are modern in style, but have proved equally attractive

to buyers. The five-bedroom detached houses are all under offer, but there are a few semi-detached houses for sale, through Winkworth Blackheath and Hornors of Beckenham, at £255,000 and £257,500.

They have, among their features, "period" mouldings, skirtings and architraves throughout.

Alfred McAlpine Homes, faced with the many standard "boxes" still being built, has dispensed with the uniform method of home construction and is attempting to emulate other builders who are providing greater variety. Its styles remain traditional, but it is adopting an adventurous approach to ensure that no two developments look the same, and at the same time offering a different combination of design features and specifications for each house.

One of its three-storey houses at Grange Park Place, Wimbledon, incorporates a turret enclosing a circular stairway. At Redditch, a four-bedroom detached house built into a hillside on two different levels has a split-level feature.

McAlpine has more than 50 house types, from starter homes to retirement homes, ranging in price from £22,950 to £350,000. They are designed to be as maintenance free as possible, with extensive insulation and energy saving standards far above the present building regulations.

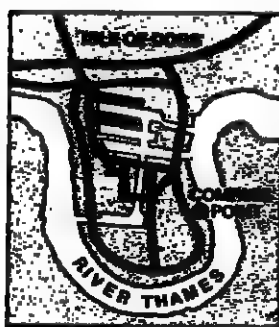
The prize for the most unusual new home on the market goes to Britain's first geodesic dome home - that is the claim of the builder Nectar Domes Ltd of Purley, Surrey - at Tatsfield on the Surrey/Kent borders. It has been furnished by interior designers to complement the style of the dome and has a spacious central lobby leading to the main rooms and master bedroom suite, with a gallery and three further bedrooms on the first floor. It costs about £300,000.

It is designed to be thermally efficient and has 38 per cent less surface area than a conventional home through which to lose heat. The dome, 45 feet in diameter with a floor area of 2,600 square feet, is set in half an acre of wooded ground and the selling agent is Distinctive Homes, Bromley, Kent.

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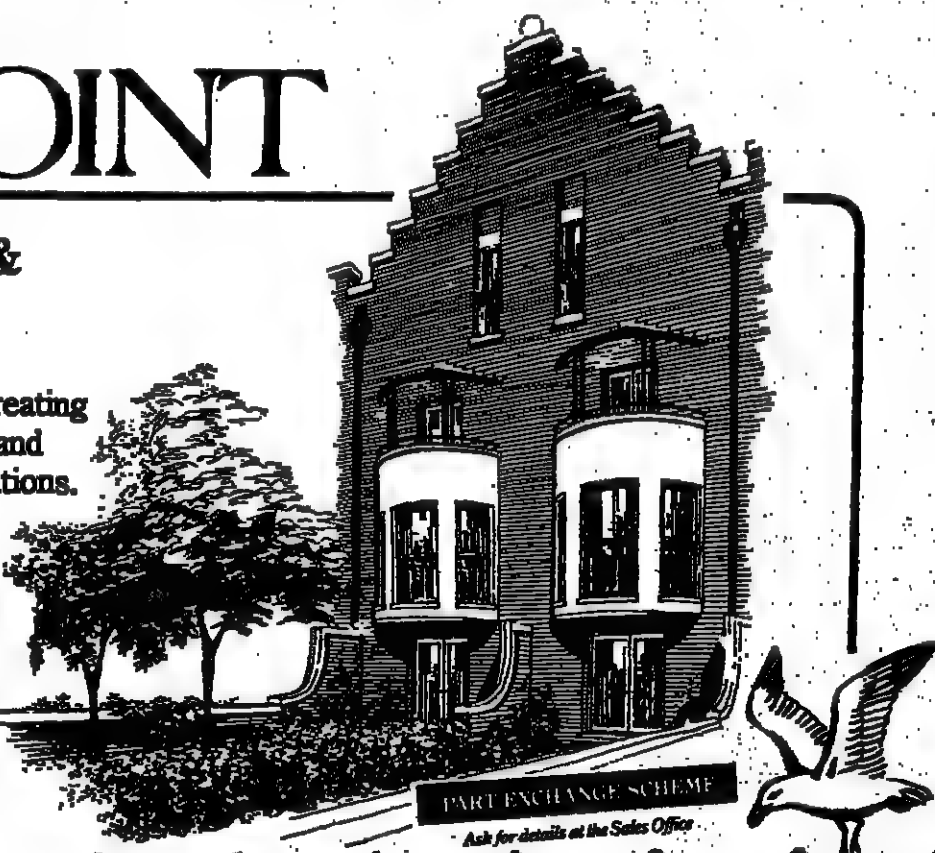
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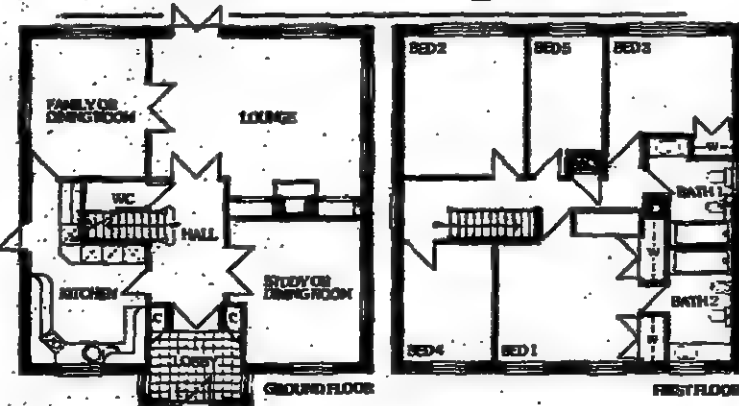
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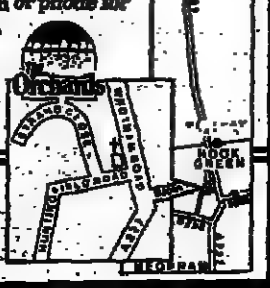


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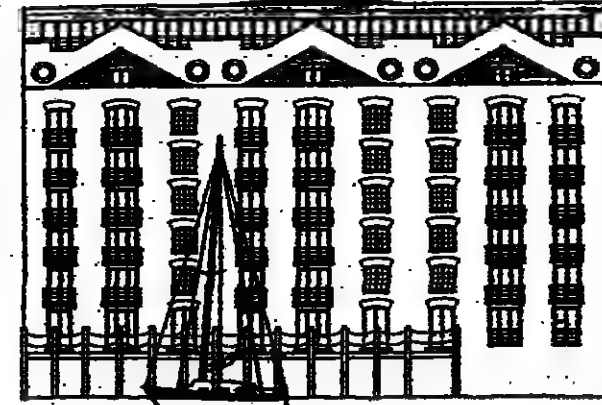
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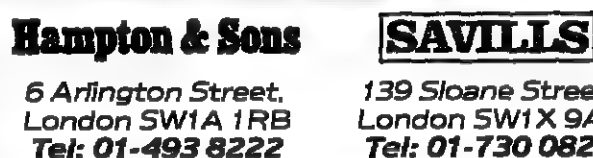
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AUDIO SECRETARY PA

Our regional sales manager and his small team, based in Kingway, need an enthusiastic PA. Good secretarial experience, the ability to accept responsibility and work on your own initiative are essential. WP skills would be an advantage. Working conditions and benefits are excellent. A salary in the region of £9,000 is anticipated. Please write with full CV to Miss Christine Weston, Personnel Officer, Hogg Robinson Travel Ltd, International Buildings, 71 Kingway, London WC2B 8SU.

HOGG ROBINSON TRAVEL
With Us You're In Good Company

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Seeks part-time secretary for Publications Manager. Half each day Mon-Fri. Needs solid secretarial skills, word processing or willingness to learn, and attention to details. Interesting work and environment. Publishing experience useful but not essential.

Telephone Personnel
01-630 2233 or write
10 St. James's Square,
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SHORTHAND SECRETARY

£8,500 p.a.
International Management Consultancy urgently requires a shorthand secretary for their pleasant Kingston office.

The successful applicant will be self-motivated, with a good shorthand and have good organizational and typing skills. Knowledge of the French language an asset but not essential. For immediate interview contact Colin Herman on 01-549 9476

£12,000+ MORTGAGE AGE 25-30
Bright smart secretary with excellent shorthand/WP skills and the maturity and experience to cope with a senior role, required for the Head of Trade Finance, Major City Bank. Lots of organizing and creating of clients. Finance/Banking experience essential. Immediate start.

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YOUNG PA for £9,000
The rather demanding Account Director requires your recently acquired skills and experience to prepare client presentations, deal with press releases, organize exhibitions and generally organize the company's public relations. You are very young and keen to progress. They are now for a prompt interview.

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PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Working in a prestigious office in Parliament Square, within walking distance of Waterloo, Victoria and Charing Cross mainline stations, you could play a vital role as PA to the head of a busy team concerned with the careers and educational requirements of the surveying division.

Employment package includes starting salary c.£9K, reviewed annually, subsidised restaurant, season ticket loan.

If you are an experienced secretary with excellent typing skills, (no shorthand required - Olivetti ET111/WP typewriter) lots of common sense who can fit in to a hectic office dealing with a wide variety of queries from students, educational establishments and members of the profession and give some administrative support, write to The Personnel Officer, The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, 12 Great George Street, Westminster SW1P 3AD. Telephone (01) 222 7000 Ext 212.

WANTED: A "WHIZZ" RECEPTIONIST

Accord Publications, the young, successful and expanding greeting card company, are looking for a bright young person to help run the receptionist if you enjoy communicating with people, have a wonderful voice and are organised this could be your chance. We offer hard work, responsibility and a great deal of fun and satisfaction and a salary of £2,000.

Curry?
Start by ringing CHERYL QUINN on 01 354 0101.

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Baldwin Terrace,
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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR W1
Lewy PR Co is currently seeking an Office Administrator/PA to manage and run the office as well as all two Directors. Ideally between 27 and 35, with sound administrative and secretarial skills. Must have knowledge of WP. Six weeks holiday, BUPA, travel expenses.

For further details, please telephone Jenny Plattman on 888-4050

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

DYNAMIC SH SECRETARY
With experience or interest in Medical Education required by Administrative Secretary, Faculty of Clinical Sciences for Committee work, correspondence and range of duties. Considerable contact with academic and hospital staff and medical students. Salary on scale £8,432 - £9,764 p.a. inc. For an informal discussion contact:

Mr David Innie,
Administrative Secretary,
Faculty of Clinical Sciences,
University Street,
London WC1E 6JJ
01-367 2558

To whom written applications should be forwarded.

Secretarial Assistant
Required to provide support to professor and his team of busy doctors and scientists engaged in asthma and allergy research. Previous medical experience not essential, although flexibility, accuracy and a genuine interest in the work are important. Varied and interesting work with scope for initiative. Duties include typing of general correspondence, manuscripts, and grant applications, and administrative and clerical duties. Word processing experience an advantage but training can be given. Salary up to £9,482 p.a.

For further details telephone Professor Innie at 01-367 2558. Written applications to Secretary, Cardiothoracic Institute, Brompton Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW3 6HP.

TOP FASHION £10,500+
Outgoing Vice Chairman of the Regent Street Fashion House needs unfatigable, organized secretary. Busy, varied duties, help set priorities, international flavour, nice friendly people. Excellent discounts on high quality clothing. Good skills essential.

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Fantastic opportunity for a person with a proven track record in setting up conferences. You will be in on the projects from day one. A full range of responsibilities including: venue, catering, transport, accommodation, publicity, etc. Salary up to £9,000 p.a. plus benefits. Write to: Conference Challenge, 100 Regent Street, London W1A 2AA. Tel: 01-492 4000.

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We are a TV based Ad Agency and are looking for a dynamic, enthusiastic and motivated person to join our team. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the agency, including client contact, account management, and general administration. Salary up to £8,500 p.a. plus benefits. Write to: Ring Deborah on 01-379 6505

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Bi-lingual sec/administrator to set up office in Munich. Excl prospects.

Two bi-lingual secs for multi national Paris Co. Suit 1st/2nd jobs.

For further details call Merrow Agcy 01-636 1487

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Legal trainee, working on a full time basis, to be employed by a national newspaper. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the newspaper, including client contact, account management, and general administration. Salary up to £9,000 p.a. plus benefits. Write to: National Newspaper, 100 Regent Street, London W1A 2AA. Tel: 01-492 4000.

WEDNESDAY
La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments. Property Residential, Town & Country, Overseas, Rentals, with Antiques and Collectables.

THURSDAY
General Appointments: Management and Executive appointments with editorial. La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments.

FRIDAY
Measure A complete car buyer's guide with editorial. Business to Business: Business opportunities, franchises etc. with editorial. Restaurant Guide. (Monthly)

SATURDAY
Overseas and UK Hotels, Villages/Coastal, Hotels, Flights etc.

Fill in the coupon and attach it to your advertisement, written on a separate piece of paper, allowing 28 letters and spaces per line. Rates are: Lineage £400 per line (min. 3 lines) Royal Display £25 per single column centimetre. £20 and Social 26 per line. All rates subject to 19% VAT. Send to: Shirley Margolis, Group Classified Advertisement Manager, Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Telephone (Daytime): _____ Date of insertion: _____ (Please allow three working days prior to insertion date.) Use your Access, Visa, Amex or Diners cards.

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Education: University Appointments, Prep & Public School Appointments. Educational Courses. Scholarships and Fellowships. La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments.

TUESDAY
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WEDNESDAY
La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments. Property Residential, Town & Country, Overseas, Rentals, with Antiques and Collectables.

THURSDAY
General Appointments: Management and Executive appointments with editorial. La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments.

FRIDAY
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Join this leading daily newspaper as secretary to their chief editor and assistant editor. Lots of interesting work with a variety of people. A great opportunity to develop your skills in a fast-paced environment. Salary up to £9,500 p.a. plus benefits. Write to: The Front Page, 100 Regent Street, London W1A 2AA. Tel: 01-492 4000.

50% ADMINISTRATION £10,500 + early review
A leading firm of accountants is seeking a highly motivated and organized individual to join their team. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the firm, including client contact, account management, and general administration. Salary up to £10,500 p.a. plus benefits. Write to: 50% Administration, 100 Regent Street, London W1A 2AA. Tel: 01-492 4000.

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SECRETARY FOR AMERICAN LAW FIRM

London Branch Office near St Pauls has 6 month position (which may become permanent). Audio, fast and accurate typing and good organizational skills essential. Willingness to work long hours. Standard hours with occasional paid overtime. 4 weeks annual holiday. £25,000 negotiable, according to experience.

Please write enclosing CV to: Stephens, Dunn & Gould, 5 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6AA. No agencies please.

FULHAM - PART-TIME

Receptionist required to work as member of friendly team in busy purpose-built surgery in Fulham Green. Full and part-time. A good telephone manner is essential as is the ability to communicate with people at all levels. Typing an advantage. Salary negotiable. Interested persons please contact: Fulham Surgery, 100 Regent Street, London W1A 2AA. Tel: 01-492 4000.

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To work in a new laboratory development in Harley Street area. Applicants should have secretarial skills, preferably medical. The successful candidate will be involved in all non-clinical laboratory activities. Conditions of service are negotiable. Further information may be obtained by telephoning 01 274 2621, or applications should be sent to BOX 443.

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We are a small but expanding team of estate agents, chartered surveyors and a young, well organized, cheerful, confident 'all-rounder' secretary with good telephone manner and ability to get on with a variety of people. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the firm, including client contact, account management, and general administration. Salary up to £9,500 p.a. plus benefits. Write to: The Front Page, 100 Regent Street, London W1A 2AA. Tel: 01-492 4000.

Gillian Fry on 01 491 3497 or 491 3823 (No Agencies)

FRENCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

require junior bilingual secretary with excellent typing, organizational and communication skills. plus fluent French. Send CV to F.C.C., 24 Conduit Street, London W1 for the attention of Mrs. Brodie. No Agencies

10 AM START £9,500
Outstanding opportunity to join a young and dynamic team in a leading financial institution. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the firm, including client contact, account management, and general administration. Salary up to £9,500 p.a. plus benefits. Write to: 10 AM Start, 100 Regent Street, London W1A 2AA. Tel: 01-492 4000.

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Secretary required for Chartered Surveyors. 50 wpm + £7,000 + exp. Contact: Penny Dwyer 491 7088 or 491 7089. 14 Gower Street, St. Pancras, W1. No Agencies.

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We need someone with top retail experience to sell antique collectors' items and contemporary enamel. Very busy, happy atmosphere. Excellent salary and prospects.

Please write in confidence to: Managing Director, Halcyon Days, 14 Brook Street, London, W1A 1AA.

MARKETING IN CHELSEA TO £11,000

Working for a young, fun Director in this lively co specialising in new food & drinks products you will never have a dull moment. Your sense of humour, charm & easy going willingness to be as important to this co as your good typing & 60 S/W exp. pref. Age 25-30.

Vacancy also exists here working for 2 young consultants. Gd typing. SH useful but not ess. Sal £29,000, age 21+.

Susan Beck RECRUITMENT 01-584 6242

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Experienced Executive Secretary with initiative and first class secretarial skills including fast shorthand needed by management training consultant Smith Square. Salary negotiable.

The Fountain Society also needs part-time secretary with fast shorthand.

Please ring Theina Sear 01-222 6037

OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR REQUIRED c.£9,000

London for expanding retail company. Secretarial skills required. Working knowledge of German would be an advantage. Working hours from 10.00am-6.00pm. Chelsea office. Suitable for mature person 25-30 for responsible and varied position.

Please send CV or contact: Karen McDonald, 4 Tregent Road, London SW10 9LR. Tel 370 4334

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Experienced bookkeeper/secretary urgently required for a small business. Salary up to £9,000 p.a. plus benefits. Write to: Temping Times, 100 Regent Street, London W1A 2AA. Tel: 01-492 4000.

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Charity Fund Raising. Urgently required two people to help with fund raising. Good communication skills essential. Salary up to £9,000 p.a. plus benefits. Write to: Charity Fund Raising, 100 Regent Street, London W1A 2AA. Tel: 01-492 4000.

Ten Plus to earn full marks again

Apparently, this half brother to that good young chaser Rentaghost, has been showing a lot of promise in his homework.



Arab influence spreading as At Talaq triumphs in Australian showpiece

But this national event enjoyed as a holiday by so many in Australia, was as successful as ever, a dramatic coup for the sponsors, Foster Lager, who put up a million local dollars, and who are now banking in a major media hype.

The parties in the car parks started before 8.0 in the morning and were still going strong into Wednesday. It was a wonderful, hot, sunny, windy day, appropriate for the occasion.

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| S Hall | 12 | 41 | 29.3 | K Darley | 15 | 139 | 10.9 |
| W Prescott | 22 | 80 | 27.5 | L Charnick | 15 | 140 | 10.7 |
| M Callaghan | 21 | 65 | 32.3 | R Blunsie | 10 | 94 | 10.6 |
| G Playway | 7 | 36 | 19.4 | J Lowe | 20 | 159 | 12.6 |

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| M Cortscho | 8 | 17 | 47.1 | A Mackay | 11 | 67 | 16.4 |
| S Hall | 12 | 41 | 29.3 | K Darley | 15 | 139 | 10.9 |
| W Prescott | 22 | 60 | 37.5 | L Chernock | 15 | 140 | 10.7 |
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Shooting Party scored for the Warren Place team at Leicester yesterday.

Henry Cecil, locked in a private battle with Guy Harwood to saddle most winners this season, reached the 114-mark, extending his lead to two over the Pulborough trainer, whose Shooting Party scored for the Warren Place team at Leicester yesterday.

Shooting Party was with the leaders from the start and the 6-5 favourite left his rivals tottering in the final furlong, drawing four lengths clear of Fearless Man.

Paul Cole, who moved stables to Whistowcombe this week, had a novel ride of 62 miles to get there, this week required a novel ride of 62 miles to get there.

David Cameron has resigned as clerk of the course at Lingfield Park. Cameron, who has held the position since July 1985, will continue his association with Folkestone, where he has been clerk of the course for several years. Michael Webster, who is clerk of the course at Kempton Park, will also take on the Lingfield duties.

It has been a fine season too for the Arundel-based John Dunlop, who has reached a century of domestic winners for the first time in 22 seasons. He registered winner No 105 with Betty Jane in the first division of the 15- to 30-day stakes.

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SPORT

England may lose Howe if FA fail to move quickly

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The Football Association are in danger of losing the coach of the England team. Although agreement was reached yesterday with Bobby Robson, who is expected to sign his contract later this week, the position of his assistant, Don Howe, has again been left open to question.

Howe has already rejected an offer from one of the top domestic clubs, believed to be Aston Villa, and he admits that he must now consider his own future. Although he was involved in the World Cup finals last summer, he has effectively been out of work since leaving Arsenal in March.

"The rest has done me a world of good," he said. "It has given me the chance to take a neutral view of the game. It has fired my enthusiasm rather than deadening it. I feel hungry now and the sooner I get back in a full-time capacity the better."

After announcing a squad that contained no surprises, Robson said that he had "ironed out one or two problems" with Bert Millichip, the chairman of the FA, and Dick Wragg, the chairman of the international committee. The role of Howe, who works on a part-time basis, also entered into the discussion.

The decision was deferred. "This is a matter for the international committee," Millichip said. "I expect there will be a meeting next week and we'll sort it out quickly. It is purely a question of whether there is a need for a full-time assistant. It is not about personnel."

The FA's vacillation serves as another example of officialdom that is anything but progressive. The authorities in England, the nation that is regarded across the world as the cradle of football, remain unreasonably reluctant to

leave ancient history behind and step out of the Middle Ages.

Scarcely anywhere else in Europe, for example, are first division programmes completed on the weekend before a competitive international fixture. And of the leading countries, barely one international manager does not have the assistance of a right-hand man.

Howe, one of the best coaches in the country, may not be available for much

England squad

Stilton (Southampton), Woods (Rangers), Seaman (Queen's Park Rangers), Anderson (Arsenal), Sansom (Arsenal), Thomas (Tottenham), Basher (Rangers), Wright (Southampton), Mabbitt (Tottenham), Hoddle (Tottenham), Williams (AC Milan), Stevens (Everton), Hodge (Aston Villa), Webb (Nottingham Forest), Beardsley (Newcastle), Linaker (Barcelona), Haseley (AC Milan), Cotes (West Ham), Barnes (Watford), Waddle (Tottenham).

Under-21 squad

Yugoslavia, November 11. Buckley (Manchester City), Flowers (Southampton), Morgan (Leicester), Allen (Queen's Park Rangers), Pearce (Nottingham Forest), Walker (Nottingham Forest), Adams (Arsenal), Knight (Sheffield Wednesday), Rocastle (Arsenal), Brennan (Ipswich), Parker (Hull), Williams (Nottingham Forest), Cleave (Nottingham Forest), Dozzell (Ipswich), Connor (Brighton), N Adams (Everton), Simpson (Manchester City).

longer. Although he concedes that "there are no firm offers at the moment", he says that he would have to give his "full consideration" to those that will doubtless be put in front of him.

The FA, a body that has become notorious for setting up a committee to set up a committee to make a decision, is facing a race against time. It will be no fault of Robson's if he loses the man he wants by his side as he travels towards the finals of the European championships.

That immediate aim will

also be under threat during next Wednesday's qualifying tie against Yugoslavia. The unmistakable strength of the opposition lies in midfield, the area that appears now to be England's weakness. Robson has lost five of his potential representatives there.

The most notable loss clearly is that of his namesake, Bryan. Robson resisted the temptation to call in replacements, even though he is also without Stevens, of Tottenham Hotspur, Reid, Bracewell and another of his namesakes, Stewart, of Arsenal.

"I already have one experienced midfielder player in Webb and I don't think that this is the kind of match for newcomers anyway," he said. "Besides, we have enough alternatives to cater for the requirements as long as there are no more injuries this week. Then, I'll have to think again."

Apart from the omissions of Bryan Robson and Stevens, the inclusion of Wright represents the lone change from the party that was assembled last month. Robson revealed that Wright, who broke his leg in the FA Cup semi-final last season, had been watched during each of his seven first-team games for Southampton.

"He had five outings in the reserves before that so he's got over his injury," Robson said. Wright, who has taken the place of Watson in the squad, is expected to fill his role in the team as well. Robson has otherwise yet to decide whether to keep the same formation that beat Northern Ireland 3-0.

He will either ask Mabbitt



Photo-finish: White Crusader (right) pips Canada II by the smallest recorded margin in the history of the America's Cup

Cudmore bluff foils Canada by split-second

From Keith Wheatley, Fremantle

White Crusader won her America's Cup race against Canada II here yesterday by less than a second in one of the closest finishes ever seen in a 12-metre event. But only a daring last-minute manoeuvre by Harold Cudmore, the skipper, gave the race to Britain.

Two hundred yards from the finish line, Cudmore was trailing by around seven seconds, after a tacking battle up the final beat, but Canadian skipper Terry Neilsen then fell for a mixture of bluff and check.

At the finish of the 18-mile battle, there was no measurable difference between Canada II and White Crusader. In fact, the yachts hit the line too close for even the computer to measure the gap. But old-fashioned committee eyeballs awarded it to the British by a split-second.

When the two boats had come together three-quarters of the way up the final beat, there was nothing in it. Cudmore, on port, was the give-way boat, but he put a precise lee-bow tack on Canada II.

White Crusader was vulnerable at the point, but Neilsen failed to exploit the situation and, two minutes from the finish, with the Canadians still slightly in front, Cudmore threw a last-hope bluff at his rival.

"There was no other way out," explained Cudmore later, "or he would have crossed the line first."

The young Toronto skipper tacked away to avoid White Crusader — a crucial error. Had Neilsen just paralleled Cudmore's luff, the yachts would have stayed in the same relative positions and he should have been able to power up to maintain his winning margin.

But the two extra tacks, put in as a consequence of Cudmore's bluff, destroyed his lead and cost Canada the race. In that one incident, one saw why Cudmore, aged 42, is rated the wildest skipper in international match-racing and Neilsen, aged 28, merely one of the most promising.

"He may have over-reacted, but the Canadians had had a lucky race prior to that," said Cudmore. "We were sailing into 20-degree headers and they were getting lifts as big as that."

Even without the prospect

of a cliff-hanger finish yesterday, most interest had focused on the light-heavyweight bout between White Crusader and Canada II. The big gun boats, such as Stars and Stripes and New Zealand, all had predictable wins lined up.

White Crusader has done far better in the points battle than Canada II, but that may have much more to do with experienced crewing than intrinsic boat superiority.

All round, the close-period modifications — notably a new keel — seem to have worked well for the British. "We're starting to go a lot better in the stronger breeze and haven't lost much at all in the soft stuff," added Cudmore. "If we beat America II tomorrow, we're right up in the reckoning."

Cudmore and the British had the better of the start yesterday. The preliminary skirmishing — off to starboard

More America's Cup and results — Page 39

of the committee boat — was more desultory than aggressive and, with 30 seconds to go, both boats were sailing down the line toward the pin end.

At the gun, White Crusader was in the leeward position and sailing faster. The clock gave it to Cudmore by one second.

On the long starboard tack down to the south — the course had been set at 220 into a fluky five-knot south-westerly breeze and shortened to six legs — the British boat opened up a slight, but distinct, lead.

By the top mark, after a series of unpredictable windshifts, it had turned to a 1min 2sec deficit. "We were about seven boat-lengths ahead and one to leeward of them at the first tack," explained Cudmore. "They got a 15-degree lift and we got really thrashed on the shifts."

Nothing changed down the first run, but the sun coming out and the breeze filling in to around 12 knots, though still shifting constantly. Up the second beat, the British pegged back the lead to around nine seconds and it stayed that way until the incident close to the line.



Victors: White Crusader's delighted captain (left) and crew

mans lost the first leg against Targem, Moscow 2-0, and their chances of overturning that scoreline have been hit by an injury to striker Aligower.

Cudmore cunning yields narrow win

By Barry Pickthall

White Crusader's victory yesterday was the closest in the 135-year history of the America's Cup. It was also most probably the closest margin recorded in any yacht race, for photo-finish cameras imperoperable on the high seas, the difference between the two yachts as they crossed the invisible finish line was as much a measure of the timekeeper's reflexes as the few centimetres that divided the two boats.

The closest previous race in America's Cup competition was the exciting battle two weeks ago between Kevin Parry's two Taskforce 10 Syndicate boats, in which the late Murray-skipped Kookaburra III gained a two-second victory over Kookaburra II, steered by Peter Gilmore.

Even then, it was impossible for those watching to differentiate first from second, and all ears turned towards the radio for the race committee's decision.

Before this year, the closest official shave had been the 26sec defeat of Australia's

first Cup challenger, Gretel, in the 1962 series against the New York Yacht Club defender, Weatherly, skippered by Bos Moshbacher.

That year, the Alan Paine-designed challenger, owned by Sir Frank Packer, was acknowledged to be the faster yacht, but Jock Sturrock, the skipper, was outsmarted by the more experienced Americans.

In that memorable fourth race, described by one Australian journalist as "the most thrilling America's Cup finish in history", Gretel's crew came close to winning her second race of the series only to be fooled into sailing well above their course in the same way that Sir Thomas Sopwith's British challenger, Endeavour, lost two of her races 28 years before.

As Gretel closed up on Weatherly on the final spinnaker leg to the finish, it became obvious that the Australian yacht would surge past unless the Americans did something dramatic.

And that is what they did. Hoisting their genoa, Weatherly's crew hardened up on the wind sailing away from the line. Sturrock called for a genoa to be hoisted aboard Gretel, too, and gave chase, and for two minutes the Australian boat was closer to the line than Weatherly.

Moshbacher held his nerve, seemingly allowing his rivals to catch up, then judging the moment right, suddenly dropped the genoa, hoisted the spinnaker and ran for the finish buoy to leave the disorientated Australians in disarray.

It was a famous victory, now overshadowed by a similar display of cunning displayed by Harold Cudmore, of Britain, over the Canadians, who must still be kicking themselves for allowing White Crusader to slip ahead in the last second.

Debate date

Counties are being given an extra chance to help them decide whether important changes to the first-class cricket structure will be beneficial to domestic cricket. The Test and County Cricket Board have called a special meeting for November 18 to debate the recommendations made by the Palmer report.

Steaua must fight for crown

The European Cup holders, Steaua Bucharest, have a mountain to climb if they are to retain their title tonight. They trail Anderlecht 3-0 after their first round, second leg European Cup tie in Brussels, and will have to rely upon the Belgians' reputations as poor travellers — the return of three regulars — the midfield player, Boloni; the forward, Lacatus; and the defender, Bumbescu — to overturn the deficit. Steaua beat Anderlecht 3-0 in the semi-final of the same competition last season.

Steaua, who were given a first-round bye, stayed top to the Romanian league with a 3-0 win over Olt over the weekend. If they lose, they will join a distinguished list of champions failing at the first hurdle the year after winning the title, including Liverpool, Nottingham Forest and Real Madrid. Anderlecht warmed up by beating lowly Berchem 8-0 in the Belgian league on Saturday.

Bayer Munich have to get over the shock of Saturday's first Bundesliga defeat of the season, 3-0 at home to Bayer Leverkusen, as they take a 2-0 lead from the first leg against Austria Vienna to the Prater Stadium.

The Germans also met their opponents last year, winning 4-2 in Munich then drawing 3-3 in Austria in the second round. Bayern's coach, Udo Lattek, has said that he will probably drop one West German international Brehme, but another, veteran striker Hoeneß, has recovered from a broken jaw and will be substitute.

Despite the confident mood in the Austrian camp, manager Tommy Parits has a number of problems. Ogris and Degeorgi are suspended, Tuerner and Baumeister are recovering from injury — though they should be fit to play — and key defender Steiger is definitely out with an injured back. Another absentee is Hungarian international Nyilasi, who may face another back operation.

Another West German side, VfB Stuttgart, face a tough task to stay alive in the Cup Winners' Cup. The Ger

More football on page 42

mans lost the first leg against Targem, Moscow 2-0, and their chances of overturning that scoreline have been hit by an injury to striker Aligower.

The Swiss side Sion, who defeated Aberdeen in the first round, can continue their run. Two late goals earned them a 2-2 draw against Katowice in Poland and they should now finish off the job.

Johan Cruyff's Ajax Amsterdam take a 4-0 lead to Greece, which should ensure that the Dutch league leaders qualify at the expense of Olympiakos Piraeus. The game was in danger of being called off on Tuesday when employees of the 80,000-seat Olympic Stadium in Athens threatened to stage a one-day strike over a contract dispute.

Barcelona, beaten by Steaua Bucharest on penalties in the European Cup final last year, face one of the toughest tasks in the UEFA Cup. Lucky even to get to the second round, after eliminating Albania's Flamurtari on the away goals rule, Terry Venables's side defend a 1-0 lead in Portugal against Sporting Lisbon.

Ajax's big Dutch rivals, Feyenoord, have an almost impossible task in the in the same competition. The Rotterdam side trails 1-5 to West Germans Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Officials at UEFA, the European soccer body, have still not yet decided what action to take over the rioting by Feyenoord fans before, during and after the first-leg game in West Germany when, police made 71 arrests.

One top side in the in the intriguing clash between French league leaders Bordeaux and Portugal's Benfica, a club with a famous European history. They drew 1-1 in the first leg in Lisbon. The Portuguese have doubts about midfielder Nunes, injured in Portugal's 1-1 European championship draw in Switzerland.

Inter Milan should pull back from 3-2 down after the first leg against Legia Warsaw in Poland. Inter field a full-strength side, including West German striker Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Argentine Passarella.

Last season's beaten Cupwinner's Cup finalists, Atletico Madrid, are in danger of elimination after losing the first leg 2-0 to Vitoria SC. Malmo, who have just won the Swedish league, lead Tirana of Albania 3-0. There are a host of other return legs which could swing either way, as Spartak Moscow, against Toulouse, Athletic Bilbao against Beveren, Trakia Plovdiv, against Hajduk Split, and Stahl Brandenburg against Gothenburg all attempt to cancel out first leg deficits.

Robson urged to pick Webb

Brian Clough last night urged Bobby Robson not to think twice about drafting Nottingham Forest's Neil Webb into the England side against Yugoslavia next week.

"If he's looking for someone to replace Bryan Robson, he should stick Webb in right away," Clough said. "He might not be able to tackle like Robson but he is working on that and he does have other attributes."

The former Portsmouth midfielder player, bought by Clough for £300,000 last year, is Forest's joint leading scorer this season with 11 goals.

Steve Perryman, the Oxford United defender and former Tottenham captain, was due to sign for third division Brentford on the pitch before last night's home game with Notts County.

Brentford's manager, Frank McLintock, said: "We are signing Steve as assistant manager, but as he is not 35 until next month we could get a couple of seasons out of him as a player. His presence and experience will lift the whole team."

● Southampton's manager, Chris Nicholl, has dismissed reports that Newcastle United are set to sign his former England midfielder player, David Armstrong, and that he is preparing to sign Manchester City's Graham Baker.

Armstrong, aged 31, has been in dispute at Southampton since the end of last season and was replaced as captain by Jimmy Case. He had a calf muscle injury recently and even though he is fit again he is unable to regain his place. Nicholl said: "Newcastle

have made no approach to me. If they do I will listen to them."

Baker, who left Southampton four years ago for £225,000, scored City's late equalizer at the Dell on Saturday in his first full game since recovering from a hamstring injury. But Nicholl stated: "I've made no approach to City for Graham."

● Noel Cantwell said yesterday he was definitely interested in making a comeback as manager of Peterborough United.

● Mickey Droy and Brian Sparrow are doubtful for Crystal Palace's Littlewoods Cup replay at Nottingham Forest tonight. Steve Coppell, the manager, adds Gavin Nibbeling and Ken O'Doherty to the squad.

Leeds fans facing life bans

By Peter Ball

After the baiting of Michael Brown, Shrewsbury Town's 18-year-old forward, last Saturday, Leeds United have announced that they will ban for life any supporters found guilty of racial abuse.

The problem has persisted for some time, but has reached a new intensity in recent weeks. An appeal by the supporters' club in a recent match programme, loud-speaker announcements at games, meetings between the club and groups of supporters, and a strong condemnation by Billy Bremner, the Leeds manager, having had no impact, the club have decided that they have no alternative.

"We like to think that it is only a small minority, but they are a very audible one," said Maxwell Holmes, the Leeds director responsible for crowd affairs. "We are determined to cut out obscene racial abuse, which is as bad as fans fighting."

Witnesses believe that there a greater level of abuse directed at black players at Leeds than at any other Football League ground, but Chief Superintendent Cahill, the officer in charge of policing at Elland Road, does not believe that the chants — or Nazi salutes seen there — are racially motivated.

"The black players have been the best players in the opposition in recent weeks, which is why the home fans have selected them as targets," he said.

But Portsmouth's manager, Alan Ball, sees it differently. After his team's visit to Leeds last month, he said: "I've never heard those chants at any other ground in the country. I can think of only one word to describe them — frightening."

Lawson in Test hope

Geoff Lawson, Australia's most famous fast bowler since Lillee and Thomson, could make his Test comeback against England in Brisbane a week on Friday. The New South Wales pacesman, aged 28, is fit again after recovering from a back injury that threatened to end his career. Whether he has done enough in two matches this season to convince the selectors will be known today when the side is announced.

Land ahoy

Harry Mitchell, aged 62, from Portsmouth, the sole British entrant competing in the BOC Single-handed Round the World yacht race, was being hampered by strong headwinds over the final 50-mile stage of the first leg from Newport yesterday and was not expected to reach Cape Town in his 41ft Double Cross until early this morning.

Games bid

Zurich (Reuters) — Lausanne will now apply to stage the 1994 Winter Olympic Games following the International Olympic Committee's ruling to switch to a new four-yearly cycle. Lausanne, headquarters of the IOC, and the federal capital, Berne, had submitted rival applications to the Swiss Olympic Committee to host the 1996 Winter Games.

Halifax blow

Halifax are to hold an extraordinary meeting of shareholders and creditors on Wednesday next week when a resolution will be put to wind up the football club voluntarily and appoint a liquidator. In a letter accompanying the notice to shareholders, John Madeley, the Halifax chairman, said he was still hoping that the club, who have debts of more than £300,000, could be saved.



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